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FOUNDER : E. R. GOVINDAN

Vol. XXXVIII | Madras, Sunday, August, 14, 1977 | No. 48

RECEIVED 18 AUG 1977

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POLICE INGENUITY AT WORK TO SOLVE

INDIRA NAGAR MURDER

(BY OUR CRIME REPORTER)

THE Madras Police is known the world over for its efficiency in crime detection and the day is yet to dawn for this singular record to be tarnished.

It is in this spirit of challenge that the Madras Criminal Investigation Department is toiling round the clock to track down the person or persons responsible for the dastardly killing in broad daylight last week of an innocent but plucky housewife at Indira Nagar, a suburb of Adyar in Madras city.

The net has been spread far and wide to bring to book the criminals from their present hideout. Without revealing all the clues which the police claim to have in their possession, the investigating officers are quite confident of solving the crime early.

HAPPY MORNING

Mrs. Prema Ramani (45), who put up a brave struggle before life was sapped out of her by the assailant, was the wife of Mr S. Ramani, Secretary of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce. On the morning of August 8, she joined her husband and her second son Vishweswaran at the table for the morning meal saying that she has prepared some special dishes. Normally, she would take her food only after the other two have left the house. This time, the husband took delight in serving her with rice on her plate instead of his being served by her.

On the morning of the incident, the husband had left the house for his office at 9.30, the son, who is a student in the first-year B. Com. at Jain College, said he was going for a film show and later, the maidservant Parameshwari also left the house finishing her chores with Mrs. Ramani left to herself alone in the house. It was while she was having her siesta that danger reared its ugly head through the unlocked backdoor.

ESCAPE

Much watching and planning in advance must have taken place as the intruder had no difficulty in gaining access into the bungalow and taking the housewife by surprise. The telephone wires were cut and not a soul could come to her rescue although there must have been a lot of shouting before she was finally silenced with several stab wounds inflicted on her body with the knife carried by the assailant.

Gold ornaments and jewellery, in all worth Rs. 30,000, were looted and the lady was thrown into a large box.

What baffles the police is that the culprit could escape without attracting notice at about noontime from a locality not so isolated. The police dog which was brought to the scene of the crime had traced the movement of the culprit up to a nearby taxi stand.

FINGER PRINTS

The police have questioned so far about 20 persons including—the maidservant Parameshwari and a female worker residing in an adjoining building under construction.

A number of tell-tale finger prints have been found on the telephone, on table tops and on the handle of the steel almirah which was ransacked. They are being compared by experts with the several lakhs of prints recorded by The Fingerprint Bureau.

The police have also sent to the laboratory for tests, strands of long hair removed from the clasped hand of the victim.

In the wake of the scare created among residents of localities like Sastri Nagar, Anna Nagar and K.K. Nagar following the Indira Nagar crime, police part-rolling has been strengthened in these areas.

The police now surmise that a gang which had perpetrated robberies some years ago at Velacheri could also be connected with the Indira Nagar incident. It is also suspected that three men posing as sewerage cleaners who had visited the house of Mrs. Prema Ramani offering to set right the clogged septic tank of the house might have actually made a cursory reconaisance of the house with the intention of gaining entry into the place at a later stage.

The police are now stated to be on the look out for these three persons. The policemen are also searching for a vegetable vendor who used to sell his wares in a pushcart and from whom Mrs. Ramani used to be the only buyer in the whole street.

The Crime Branch in the course of its house-to-house enquiries with the residents of the neighbouring homes has realised to its discomfiture that people were not willing to talk freely with the police on what they knew.

As a measure of precaution, the police have taken finger prints of a group of young overseas boy and girl students residing in a hostel near the house of the deceased.

The police are stated to have positive information that the person who committed the crime had left in a taxi but the driver who gave him the ride could not be located although more than a 100 taxi drivers of the area have so far been questioned.

A Special Investigation Cell manned with about 50 personnel headed by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. S.I. Jafar Ali and Asst. Commissioner M.L. Bhat is investigating the crime.

Police Commissioner's Regret

The Police Commissioner, Mr. Paramaguru, told pressmen that while slum dwellers were willing to pass on vital information to the police, many enlightened persons whose information could be of immense help to track down the criminals preferred to be silent.

For instance he regretted that residents of Indira Nagar were reluctant to talk about what they have heard or observed about movements of strangers in the past few days in the area. He has pointed out that even minor incidents of the few weeks if related to the police would help the investigation of the Indira Nagar murder.

He added that the situation in the slums was quite contrary as people in those parts readily come forward to assist the police with information. Citing an example, Mr. Paramaguru said the police were able to trace the persons responsible for the theft in a godown at George Town some time ago. It was only on the basis of the information given by a woman, a pavement dweller, who had noted the number plate of a tempo in which the stolen goods were transported, the culprits were traced and brought to book.

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THUS SPAKE
THE MAHATMA

Some think that God Himself is a creation of our own imagination. If that view holds good, then nothing is real.

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Aug. 14, 1977

PROMISE TO POLICE

Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran has done well in meeting the police officers of the State so soon after assuming office.

His assurance that no one—whether it be Ministers, MLAs, M.Ps, party leaders or local "big-wigs"—would be allowed to interfere in the day-to-day work of officials was timely.

Their response with the pledge to work earnestly to present a better image of the police before the public and to win their confidence is heartening.

Police are maintaining law and order in the interest of the community as a whole and the community's responsibility is not small in this respect.

Unnecessary political agitations and labour and student strikes, which often lead to violence creating law and order situation and inviting police intervention must be avoided. There are many forums to settle political differences ; the courts are there to settle labour disputes. Student's grievances are mostly imaginary and where real, can be settled through talks with college and university authorities. And the popular ministers are also there to hear and help.

When the community fails to maintain peace, the police will certainly step in. There is no use of blaming them. Police men also are human beings and may err sometimes when a situation is explosive.

Exaggerated reports have been made by politicians about police excesses and harassment of people. Even when there is some truth in such allegations, enquiries must be conducted in such a way that the image of the police force as a whole is not tarnished. If the police is consistently put in bad light before the public, to that extent, the law and order situation will certainly deteriorate. Suspension and arrests of top police officers with much publicity and fan fare may help in winning political gains for short periods. But in the long run, it may erode the zeal and confidence of the police force.

The Chief Minister must be congratulated for the decision to enforce the ban on carrying passengers in lorries. It has been decided not only to punish the owners of the lorries used to carry passengers but also confiscate the vehicles. The rule will apply to all, including political parties.

All India Anna DMK is the main party now using lorries to transport its supporters to see MGR and to attend its conferences. The DMK has become so rich that its members engage mainly buses. The Congress has no such problem—it has neither the fund nor the men to carry.

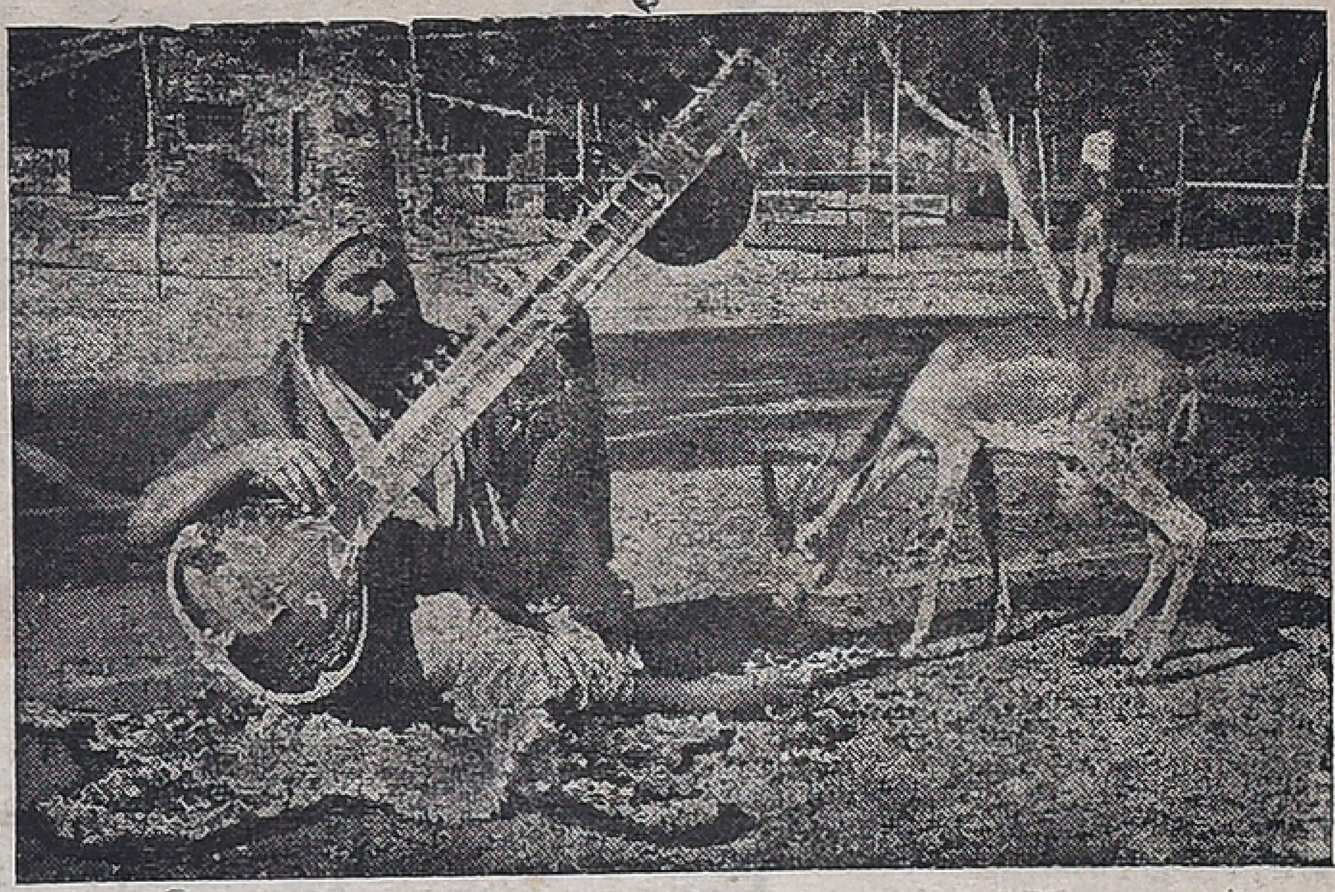
So the party affected by the ban is AIADMK and the Chief Minister's firm decision to enforce the ban proves the fact that he is not after gaining cheap popularity.

The Officer's plea for prompt repudiation of malicious reports appearing in news papers, which were likely to create disaffection between the police and the public must be responded to. There is also force in their suggestion for recruitment to the police force only people with certain amount of basic education.

In the whole of India, Tamil Nadu police are the one that maintain a high standard and tradition. Given adequate freedom without political interference, they are capable of handling any situation. The tact and skill shown in containing the student's agitation in the city is a pointer.

Relieved of facing law and order situation everyday, the police can concentrate on crime detection. During the last 10 years, the police had to be on the streets to contain agitations and to protect politicians going in processions. Crime detection work suffered.

We hope a new realisation will dawn on the community and spare the police for the work for which they are mainly intended and strengthen their hands.



H. H. Sri Ganapathi Sachchidananda Swamiji will be in Madras from August 15. Swamiji will be performing a pooja on the Morning of Aug. 16 at Sri Sri Ganapathi Sachchidananda Gnana Bodha Sabha premises at 2, Kutcheri Road, Mylapore. There will be discourse by Swamiji in the evening on the same day.

THE CONCEPT OF LOK PAL

By S. J. SORABJEE
Additional Solicitor General Of India

The Indian citizen like nationals of several other contries have the right of appeal against ministerial and official corruption and inefficiency. This function can be performed by the Lok Pal who should have investigatory powers to look into grievances.

GOOD Government is the aim and the ultimate justification of any State which stands for the welfare of its citizens.

The hallmark of a welfare State are :

(1) Integrity of administration. This implies absence of corruption and improper conduct ;

(2) efficiency and effectiveness of administration. This can be ensured in two ways. Firstly, by eliminating administrative procedures or practices governing administrative action which is unreasonable, unjust and oppressive and, secondly, by eliminating negligence or undue delay in taking administrative action. The laws delays and the incidence of office are the source of many an ill of the citizens; and last but not the least securing the liberties of the citizen in a prompt, inexpensive and informal manner.

Experience shows that the success of a good government is closely linked with a high degree of civic consciousness. We have recently had an outstanding example of the political consciousness and maturity of our people which should dispel any doubt or cynicism about their civic consciousness which is very much there and wants to assert itself, if only citizens had a trusted friend and protector.

GENERAL BELIEF

The institutions of Lok Pal and Lok Ayukatas may well provide the answer. "OMBUDSMAN is a Scandinavian institution. Sweden was the first country to adopt it in its present form in 1899, followed by Finland, Denmark and Norway. New Zealand, a common law country with a parliamentary form of Government, voted for it in 1962, and England adopted in 1966". Historically in each of these countries, the mechanism has been adopted with one aim in view, viz. to control the activities of, and prevent abuses by official and administration after it was realised that the existing mechanism and procedures were inadequate for the purpose.

The Indian experience is no different. There has been oft-expressed public outcry against the prevalence of corruption, the existence of widespread inefficiency and the un-responsiveness of administration to popular needs. The general belief in India is that officials and ministers are not to be trusted. The average citizen rightly feels that questions put in Parliament,

(Contd. on page 11)

THE CALCUTTA U-RAIL

By R.K. BANSAL

THE country's first underground railway system—the Calcutta U-rail—is round the corner. 1980 is expected to mark the beginning of actual trials on a 2.5. kms. stretch, from Dum Dum to Belgachia, of the nearly 16.5. kms. long Rapid Transit System, mostly underground, being constructed by the Metropolitan Transport Project (Railways).

Work on this ambitious Rs. 250 crore project is presently in full swing. From the construction planning point of view, the project is divided into 17 sections and work in eight of these, covering a distance of over five kms. is in hand.

When completed, the Calcutta RTS will have 17 stations averaging a distance of less than one km. in the intensively built and thickly populated areas of Calcutta. The proposed high speed trains would run at a frequency of less than two mts. during peak hours. On the basis of 300 passengers per coach (capacity 40 sitting and 300 standing) and 2 400 passengers per train the RTS would carry approximately 60 000 passengers per hour in each direction. A total of nearly 300 trains each way per day running between Dum Dum and Tolleygunge will ultimately carry a daily load of 16 to 20 lakh passengers.

UNIQUE

Forty six railway organisations, including those in London, Paris and Moscow have underground railway systems. But Calcutta's Rapid Transit System is unique in more than one sense. It is being constructed in India for the first time. What is more, such a highly technical and complicated railway system is being constructed by the country's own engineers and experts and largely with indigenous resources.

Some of the important features of the Rapid Transit Systems are:

* all trains will have a uniform class of accommodation,
* the journey would be mostly through an underground RCC box tunnel,
* all trains will have automatic over-speed protection with cab signalling system, and fire warning and fire fighting arrangements,
* adequate communication system will be available within the train and with the world outside,
* the trains will run on ballastless track laid on concrete,
* the tunnels would be fully ventilated with the provision of cooled air, and
* there will be no interference with surface transport or air pollution hazard.

The RTS trains would run on electric traction with 75 volts DC current drawn from the third rail and will have a maximum speed of 80 kms/h. The running time between Dum Dum and Tollygunge including 15 halts would be a mere 34 mts.

CONSTRUCTION

As already mentioned, the entire project involves a very high degree of technical skill calling for various techniques and strategies in different sections and through different stages of construction. However, hidden underground, like the intestines in the body, the RTS, on completion, will bear no sign of the enormous effort, undergone in the project's completion. Machines of enormous size, heavy steel structures and structurals, deep trenches, huge piles of excavated earth and construction materials, exasperating traffic bottlenecks and a large army of men toiling in fair and foul weather, will simply be a thing of the past.

The basic construction work involves laying of an underground RCC box-tunnel. This can be achieved either by the tunnelling method or by the cut and cover method of construction. However, in view of the very heavy cost involved in tunnelling, it is the cut and cover method which would be largely resorted to. This necessitates digging of deep open trenches involving utilities like water pipelines, sewers, open drains, telephone lines, street lights etc. and the possibility of damage, due to setting and caving in of the trench walls, to standing buildings in congested localities. The RTS has also to pass under the 19 line Chitpur yard, the canal and thereafter the five-point Shyam Bazar crossing onwards to Bhupen Bose Avenue, all without disturbing the heavy flow of traffic. This work will, of necessity, have to be undertaken with the tunnelling method, supporting the surface sevices on relieving girders.

FIRST PHASE

In the cut and cover method of construction, it is necessary to protect the trench sides against caving in under pressure either by provision of steel sheet piling or by construction of diaphragm walls. Again, as the steel piles have to be imported, greater recourse will be taken to diaphragm walling.

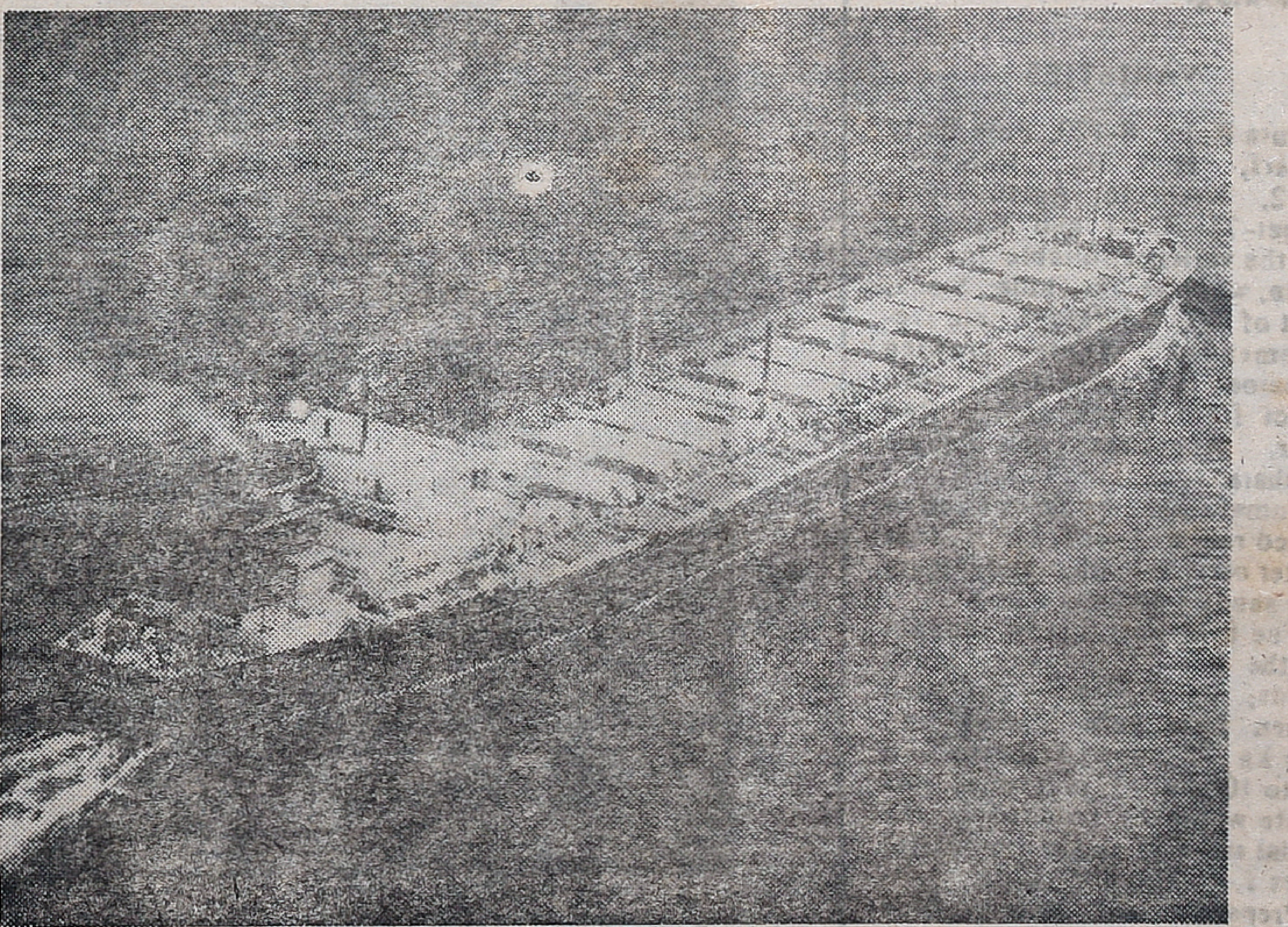
It is only after the diaphragm wall or the steel sheet piling is ready and strutted that the excavation work, sometimes as much as 11.5 metres deep, can be taken in hand. Experience has shown that the diaphragm wall has completely fulfilled its intended purpose of holding back the soil outside the cut and effectively keeping out the sub-soil water in the top layers of the soil. The technique of constructing the diaphragm wall has now been fully mastered by the Metropolitan Transport Project (M.T.P.) and, in various stretches, diaphragm walls for over two kms. have already been provided. The work of constructing the RCC twin box-tunnel has also commenced.

The project is initially concentrating on completion of Dum Dum to Shyambazar and Esplanade to Tollygunge sections. After this work has progressed, sections through Chittaranjan avenue will also be taken in hand.

INDIGENOUS

Side by side with the construction of the box-tunnel, the design as well as indigenous development of equipment required for power supply, air-washery, ventilation system and signalling and telecommunication is also progressing according to schedule. The system would require about 40 megawatts of power supply which has been ensured. Action has also been initiated to develop an indigenous prototype RTS coach to be manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory, Madras. The traction equipment is likely to be supplied by a public sector undertaking in the country.

It is thus heartening to see that the Calcutta RTS is fast coming up under a dynamic strategy of development of indigenous technical skill with an eye on economics and a reasonable balance in the use of manual labour and machines. Given the unflinching enthusiasm of our men and provision of sufficient funds to keep up the tempo of work, it can reasonably be hoped that the construction work for the Calcutta RTS—The U-rail—will be completed by 1984-85.



M. V. VALLABABHAI PATEL is the latest vessel acquired by the Shipping Corporation of India, a State owned shipping company. The giant ore-cum-oil bulk carrier of 1,14,000 DWT is named after the great national leader Sardar Vallabbhai Patel. Built in Yugoslavia, the vessel will bring crude to India and carry ore from here. Equipped with latest sophisticated navigational aids, it has a service speed of 15 knots. The accommodation for crew and officers is spacious and air-conditioned.

Growing Tomato

NEVER before, tomato growers had so many varieties to choose from. He can now pick varieties which are not only top-yielders, but also can meet his specific purpose.

Originally, growing as wild species in the South America, tomato has undergone a spectacular development during the last 30 years.

Tomato, now tops the list of vegetables for processing. Its unique quality of lending itself to various products have led the scientists to develop improved varieties having different characteristics to suit different purposes—for eating fresh, making curry, processed food and canned whole tomatoes, juices, purees, soup, chutney, sauces and so on. The growers have to make the right choice to suit his purpose and the particular region. It is easy to get heavy yields from them, provided the scientific method to get the best out of them is followed.

Tomato can be grown almost round the year, but time of planting varies from region to region, because it cannot stand frost. It requires a warm weather to grow and fruit.

In the plains of the North India, it can be sown in June-July in the nursery and transplanted during July-August. The second crop can be sown around November-December. In the hills, the crop sown in March-April can be transplanted in May-June. In the South, tomato can be sown any time during the year, but the sowing time is September. For Western region July and October are the ideal months or sowing.

VARIETIES

Pusa Ruby, S-120, Pusa Early Dwarf, H. S. 101, H. S. 102, S-12, Kechruth Ageti, T-1, Sweet-72, Co-1 and Karnatak are the varieties suitable for the plain, whereas for hills, Sioux, Best of all, Murglobe, are recommended. Those growing tomatoes for processing, can select from Roma, Italian Red Pear, Angurlata or Punjab Chuhara.

Tomato can be grown on a varied range of soils, but it does better on rich loam, sandy loam and sandy soils.

The field must first be brought to the fine tilth. For heavy yields, 25-30 tonnes of well rotten farm yard manure and 400 kg of superphosphate and 60 to 100 kg. of potassium sulphate would be required at the initial stage. Here are some useful hints for taking top yields.

Prepare raised nursery beds 60 to 80 cm wide and 12 to 15 cm. high of any suitable length.

Treat the soil a week before sowing with Formaldehyde at one liter in 100 liters of water. Keep the treated soil covered with alkathene for 72 hours.

Four hundred grams of seed is enough to plant one hectare. The seed should be placed one cm deep in rows marked 8 to 10 cm. apart. Sprinkle water after sowing, if required.

When seedlings are about 15 cm tall, they should be transplanted with a spacing of 660 to 75 cm between rows and 45 to 60 cm between plants, depending upon the season and variety. Irrigate the field immediately after transplanting.

Top dress twice or thrice with 300-400 kg. of ammonium sulphate or C. A. N. Two or three sprays of one per cent urea at an interval of 15 days are beneficial.

Irrigate the crops every 10 to 12 days in winter and 5 to 6 days in summer. Weed regularly hoeing will keep the field free from weeds.

Tomato fruit borer is a very

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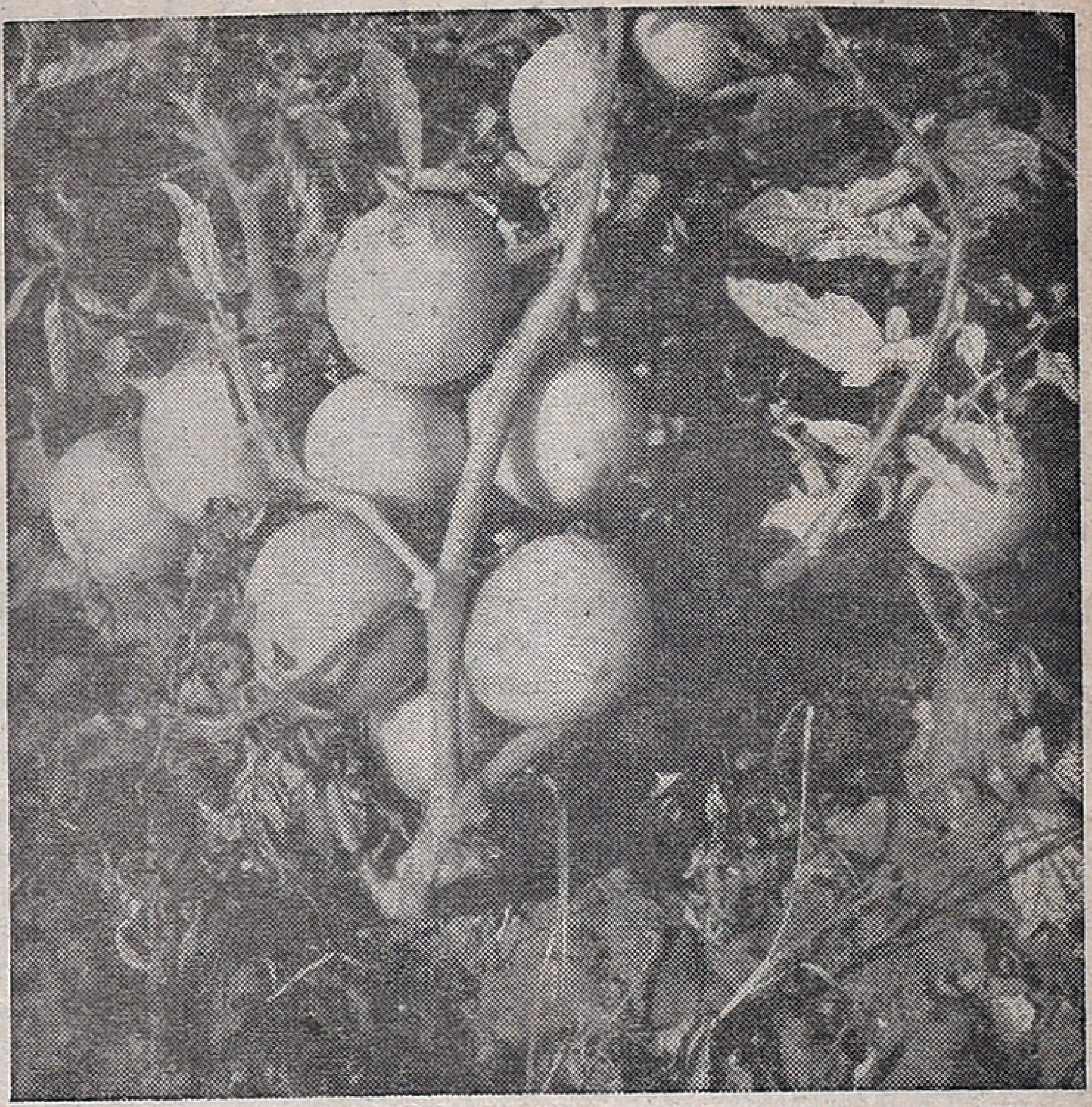


A typical luscious hybrid tomato.

Cotton has become a scarce commodity in the recent past and was in short supply. The price soared up and the Government had to resort to import to meet the home demand. Now the nation is determined to over come the difficult situation by increasing cotton production. A target of 80 lakh bales of cotton has been set. To achieve this a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton District Programme is under implementation in important cotton growing states. The scheme includes subsidy for strengthening cotton seed multiplication programme, production of foundation seed, plant protection equipments, grading centres and hybrid seed production.

Public And Private Sectors

By A.N. PRABHU

WHEN India became independent, the system we inherited was such that the economy could not be completely public-owned. But the problems facing the country were so vast that it could not be left to the mercy of the private sector either. The planners followed a middle course and India opted for a mixed economy.

Since then, the controversy has been raging about the relative merits of public and private sectors. But nobody advocated a laissez faire philosophy, that is a free-for-all economy. Innumerable arguments were adduced to support and opposed the public sector as also for and against the private sector. As years went by with several public sector units incurring losses or making only nominal profits protagonists of the private sector pointed an accusing finger at what they called the colossal waste of public money. But the murky dealings of the private sector whenever these came to be known to the public in driblets, raised doubts whether it was wise to have allowed the private sector to co-exist with the Public sector. Moreover, in a country where 99 per cent of the people are steeped in poverty and the private sector amassed wealth indulging in its vulgar display and resulting in concentration of economic power in a few hands, the question arose : is it not time to cry a halt to this gross injustice ?

CLEAR DEMARCATION

The industrial licensing policy had therefore clearly demarcated areas for the two sectors. It banned the entry of large houses and foreign companies in fields in which medium and small entrepreneurs could effectively function. The 'core' of the economy was completely left to the public sector such as coal, steel, oil, chemical and fertilisers, heavy engineering and capital goods. In spite of the stringent measures, however, it is generally conceded that the structure of ownership has moved in such a manner as to lead to further concentration of economic power.

Agreed that private initiative has a place in the economy. Some 80 per cent of the economy is still in private sector despite the spectacular growth in investment in the public sector. The agricultural sector contributing more than 50 per cent of the gross national product is in private hands. So is the vast decentralised sector of small scale industry, handloom and cottage industries dotting the country contributing about fifty per cent of the total industrial production.

BIG STRIDES

The public sector has also grown in a big way over the years. There were 129 units with a total investment of 8,973 crore rupees making a profit before tax of about 306 crores in 1975-76. The return on capital employed works out to 7.6 per cent. The public sector is pace-setter in many fields and has done a commendable job.

The Change in Government at the Centre has however allowed the controversy to raise its ugly head again. It is not clear how and who had doubts. The Janata Party manifesto speaks of giving importance to the decentralised sector. It says that there is room for heavy and large industry but only where it is not possible to organise such production satisfactorily in the cottage and small scale sector. During the general discussion on the Union budget, the erstwhile Swatantra Party background of a constituent of Janata Party was pointed out by some members. There is however no indication whatsoever of any shift in policy from public sector. In fact the Finance Minister Mr. H.M. Patel repeatedly made it clear that the Janata Party is committed to the public sector concept. He has also given the assurance that the Government would ensure that the public enterprises work efficiently and generate resources for development of the economy. Since the Government is wedded to mixed economy, Mr. Patel said that both the sectors of industry would receive its equal attention.

Undoubtedly, private initiative has a place in the economy. Even Socialist countries are gradually veering round this view, The draft constitution of the Soviet Union being circulated for a national debate says that the Soviet citizens "may have earned incomes and savings, a house and articles of everyday use and personal consumption and convenience. The right of citizens to personal property and also the right of citizens to inherit personal property shall be protected by law".

PRIVATE INITIATIVE

But even the staunchest private sector supporter in India does not want laissez-faire philosophy The controversy is sterile because the public financial institutions have a fairly large stake in private enterprises. It is also a fact that without incentives and concessions the private sector neither moves out to backward areas nor takes up items with long gestation periods or which require large capital outlay. The public sector has the advantage of being a vehicle of social progress but has the disadvantage of being in constant limelight. The spotlight on its failings over-rides its good work. The private sector has the advantage of its dealings being shrouded in the privacy of the family until unearthed by enterprising Parliamentarians. It is on a stronger wicket because it works for personal gain and therefore has a sense of involvement and stake in its success. Though the private sector is increasingly being manned by professional managers, the proprietory nature gives it a different complexion altogether. It is time the atmosphere of confrontation gives way to constructive cooperation. Each has a place in the economy. The proposition is not the public sector versus the private sector. In fact, it is public and private sectors working to the extent possible in the present circumstances. —AIR

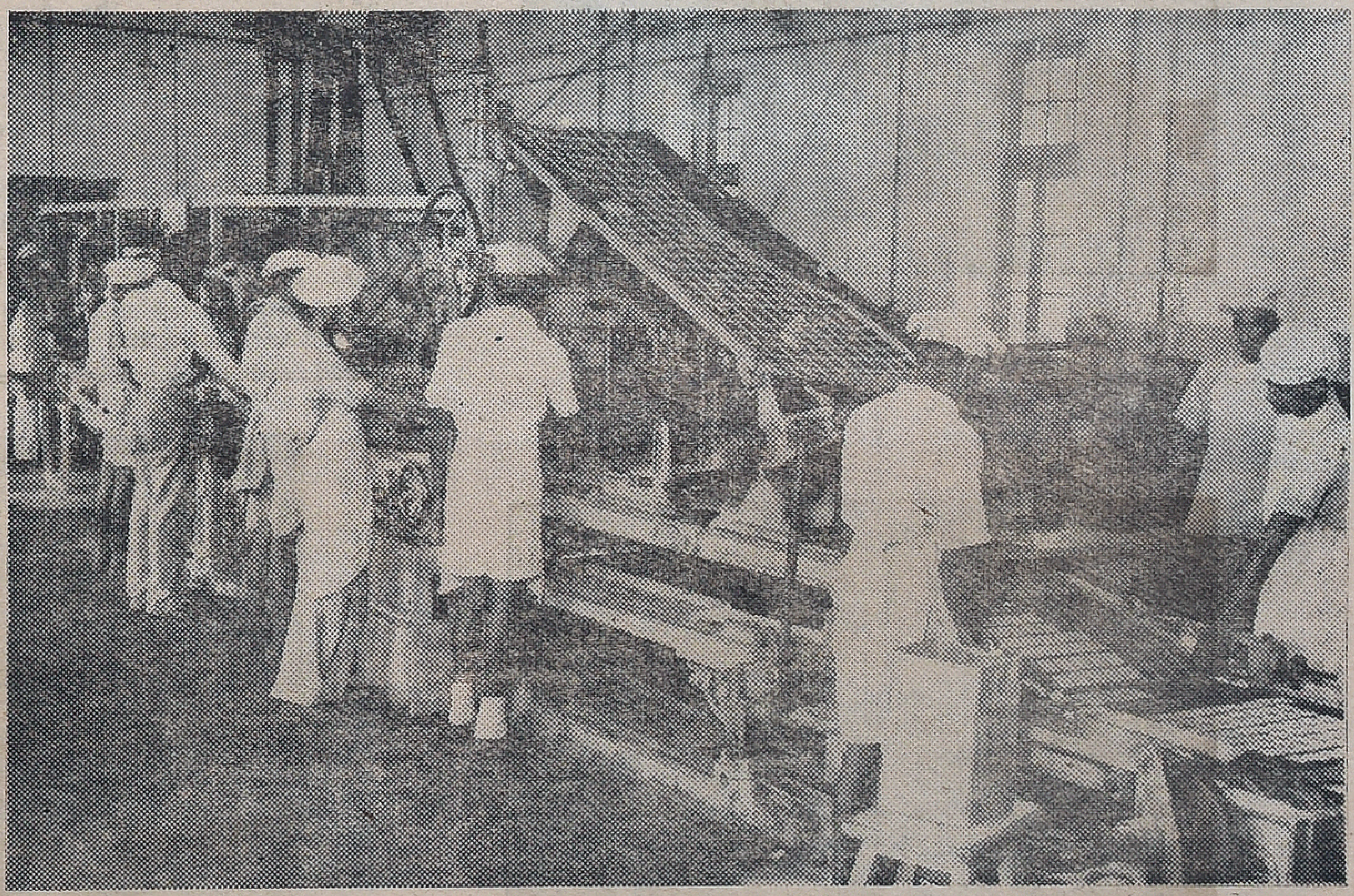
Stuck

There were some forty cases of kidnapping registered in Italy from January to the beginning of June. This "epidemic" has given bank tellers a headache because they have to register the numbers of all the banknotes paid as ransom (this is done to make it easier to catch kidnappers). The lists of such numbers, however, are already more voluminous than a telephone directory and so the tellers find it practically impossible to control them. There have been some curious cases too: registering banknotes to the amount of 1,000 million lire paid for the release of Guido de Mertino, Socialist leader in Naples, they established that some of them went for rensoming Genoese shipowner Pietro Costa.

SILENCED

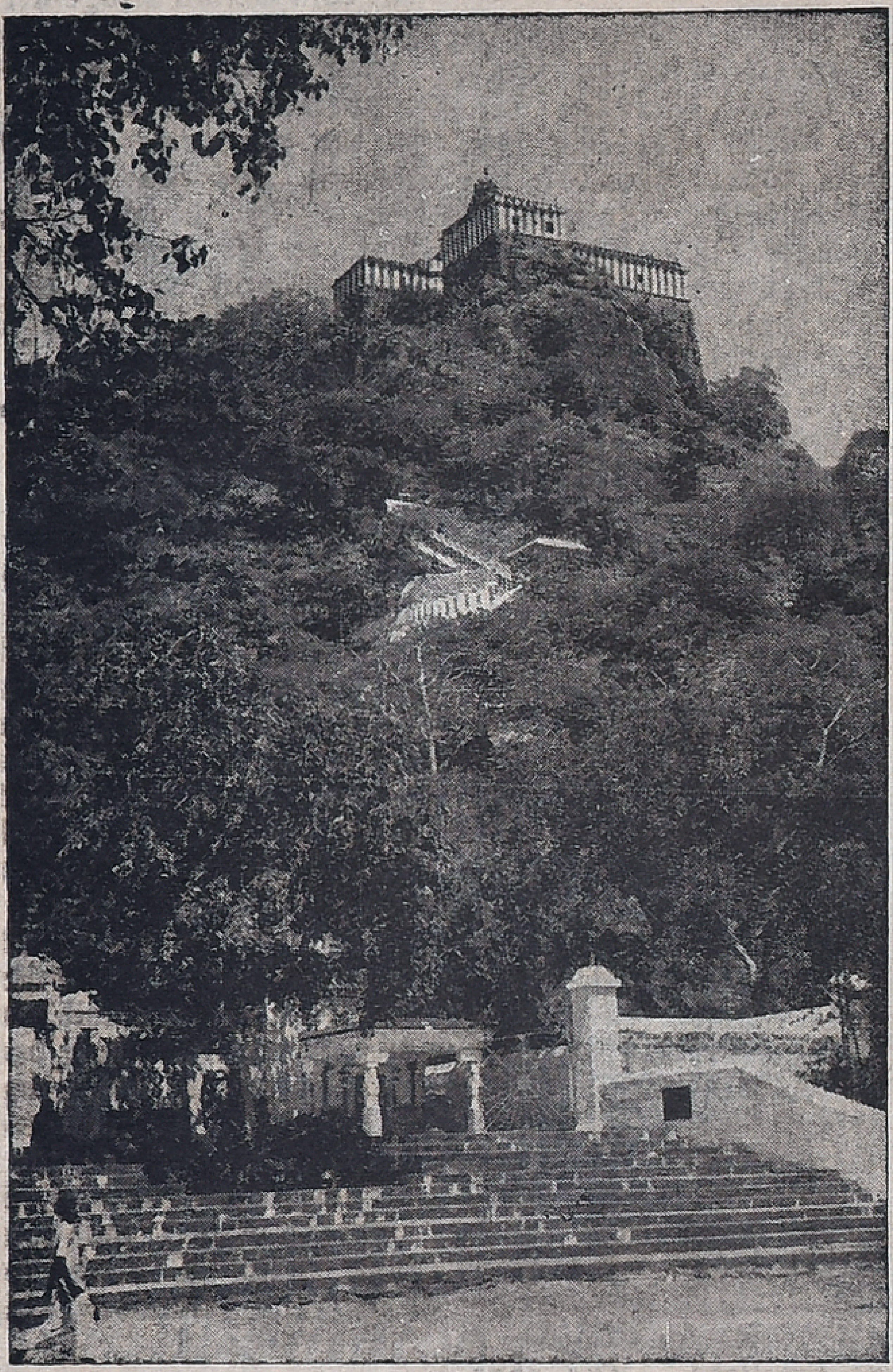
Wife in Court: "The argument we had was to my liking. It lasted for hours."

Husband (in evidence): "I have yet to experience one of the four freedoms."

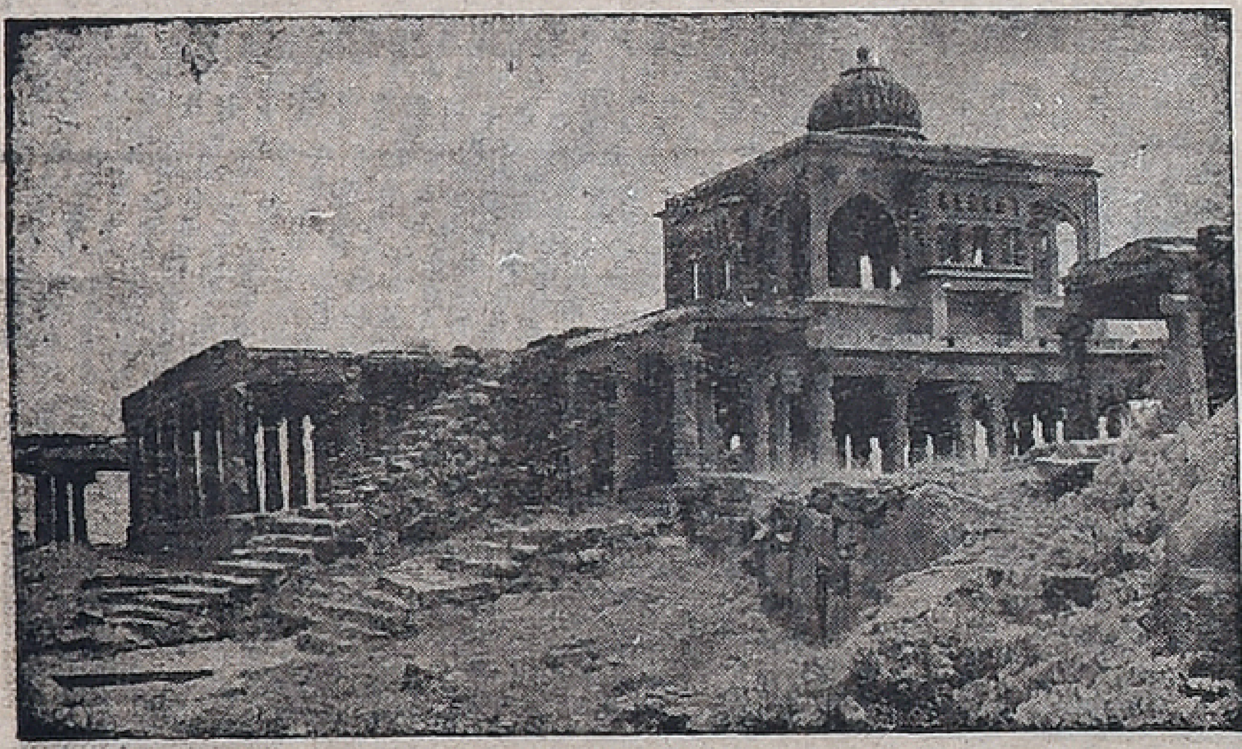


A large number of small scale units are being set up for the production of consumer goods throughout the country managed by cooperative societies. The Government as well as the National Cooperative Development Corporation will be assisting them. Eighty per cent of the cost of the units will be met by the Government of India and the National Cooperative Development Corporation. Picture shows work in progress in a biscuit factory.

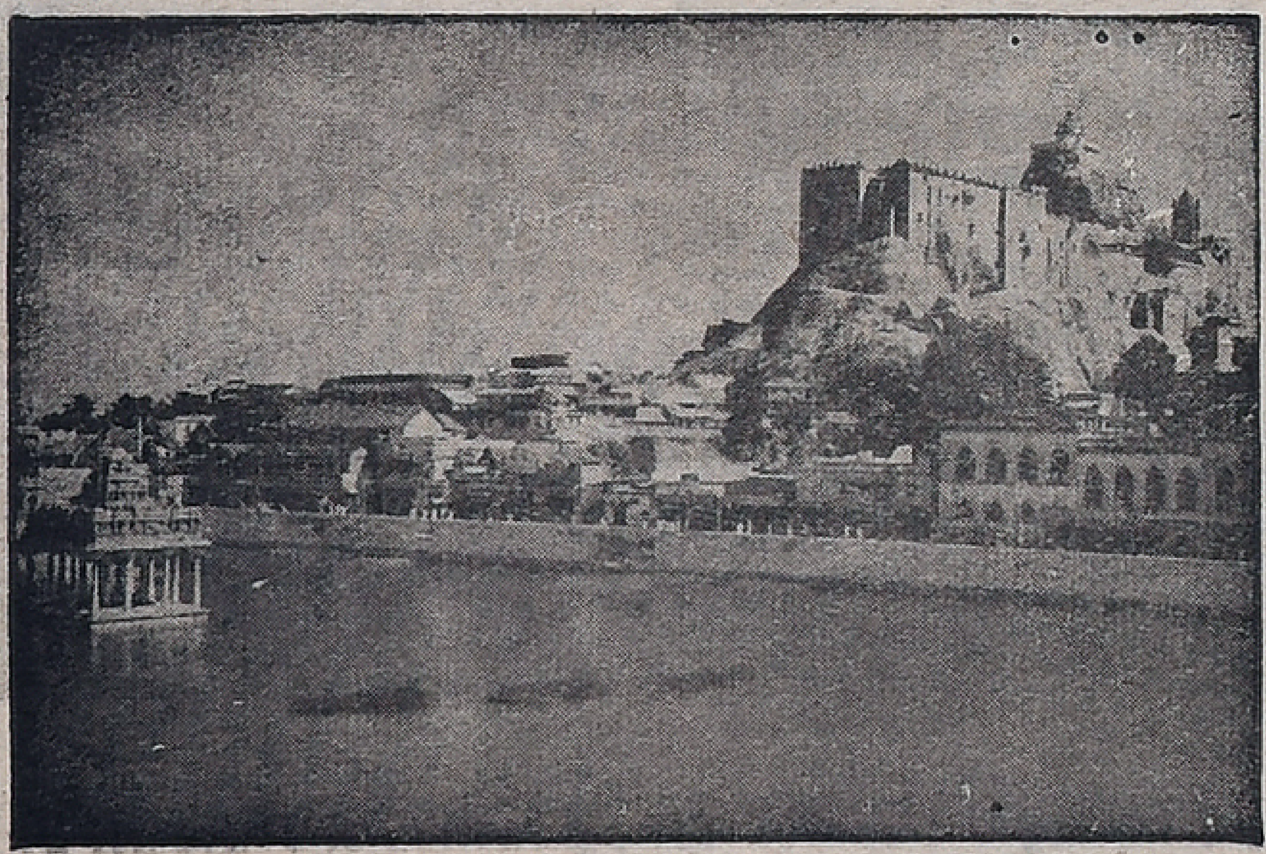
Some Tourist Attractions In Tamil Nadu



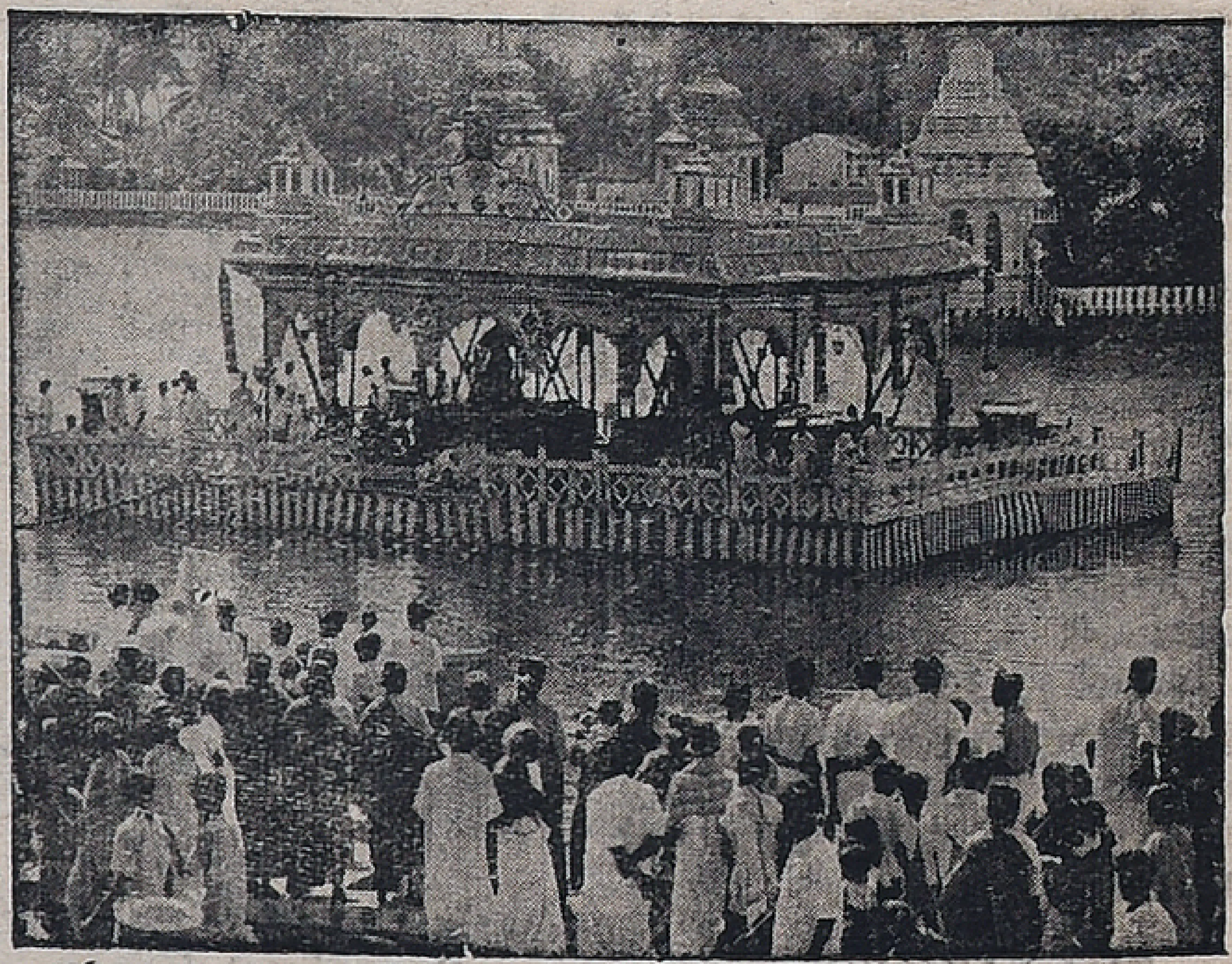
Thirukazhukundram



Gingee Fort



Rock Fort, Tiruchi



Mariamman Festival, Madurai

New Deal For Home Tourists

By SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK,
Minister of Tourism

ORGANISED tourism is a relatively new concept. But India has a long tradition of welcoming and looking after its visitors. Courtesy to the traveller who is now called a 'tourist' has been a way of life with us. Our ancestors considered it an act of piety to build sarais and dharamsalas where the weary traveller could find solace and comfort. It was in the beginning of this century when travel became popular due to revolutionary changes in transport services that tourism came to be regarded as a commercial activity. The traveller became a source of income for a variety of people including hoteliers, transporters and tour organisers. The foreign tourist was the most sought after for his dollars, pounds, yens and Deutche Marks.

Even at the Governmental level the entire thinking was guided by the requirements on the affluent tourist from the West. Not much thought was given to the needs of the less affluent tourist. The home tourist was almost completely forgotten.

POWERFUL MEDIUM

It is time we consider tourism in its proper perspective. Tourism is not only an economic activity, it is a powerful medium for fostering better understanding among nations and for developing closer cultural and business relations. Domestic tourism promotes national integration, as it leads to greater understanding of the diverse communities and cultures of this land.

During the past two decades or so, the emphasis in our developmental schemes has been on international tourism. While international tourism should grow I strongly feel that the domestic tourist should also get a fair deal and should be provided with facilities and opportunities for an inexpensive holiday. This aspect of tourism has to be brought into focus—both in Governmental policy and in our approach to develop tourism through private sector.

Our domestic traffic can be divided into three broad categories. First of all, there are people who go on pilgrimage to holy places year after year. This traffic has existed for generations and will continue to exist. In the next category are those who travel for business purposes. Their number is gradually increasing. Lastly, a new class of holiday makers is slowly, but surely emerging.

JANATA HOTELS

Most of those who travel for pilgrimage are poor people. Similarly not all the people travelling for business or holiday are rich. They cannot afford luxury hotels. What they need is neat and clean accommodation at a cost which they can afford. Some attempt has been made by both the Central and State Governments and number of holiday homes, tourist bungalows and youth hostels have been set up at places of tourist interest. But they only touch the fringe of the problem.

What we need is a chain of Janata Hotels in different parts of the country to provide inexpensive accommodation and catering facilities to low budget tourists. We are already moving in this direction. We propose to build a Janata Hotel in Delhi as a pilot project. This hotel will provide all necessary facilities including a cafetaria and a shopping arcade to meet the daily needs of the lodgers. Similar hotels will be opened at other places depending on the availability of resources and success of this project.

GIGANTIC TASK

Providing cheap accommodation to the tourists is a gigantic task requiring huge investment.

The private entrepreneur with his eye on profits may not be willing to enter this field. The responsibility for providing such accommodation will, therefore, have to be shared by the Central and State Governments.

The State Governments have also been asked to prepare master plans of their regions and identify places of historical, archaeological, cultural, literary and religious importance and also places important from the view-point of scenic beauty or wild life, and draw up both short-term and long-term plans of development indicating the extent to which they would be able to finance these plans and the quantum of central assistance which would be necessary.

The cheap accommodation facilities proposed to be provided will also be welcomed by international tourists, not all of whom come from affluent classes. According to a survey conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Opinion in 1972-73, only 40 per cent of the foreign tourists preferred to stay in five star hotels. The number of young tourists, who travel on a budget, has also been increasing over the years. They now constitute nearly one-third of all tourists, coming to this country.

BALANCED APPROACH

We intend to adopt a balanced approach in the development of tourism infrastructure. While facilities for affluent tourists continue to be developed through the private sector, the public sector should, as far as possible, devote its attention to providing facilities for low budget accommodation. We propose to develop a tourist product which would meet the requirements of both the affluent and not so affluent foreign traveller as well as our own countrymen.

In promoting international tourism, adequate attention should be given to our neighbouring countries. We have strong cultural ties with the countries of South East Asia and our Buddhist shrines and monuments have a great appeal for visitors from these countries. We should intensify our promotional campaign in this region to attract larger traffic. Simultaneously, we should provide accommodation, transport and other facilities at places of Buddhist interest.

Some measures have already been initiated. The Central Department of Tourism has undertaken preparation of master plans of selected Buddhist centres of Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Kushinagar, Saranath, and Sravasti. The objective of preparing these master-plans is to identify areas which are significant from the view-point of tourist potential-both international and national-and to provide the necessary tourism infrastructure to attract the tourists and also to preserve the natural setting and environment of such places.

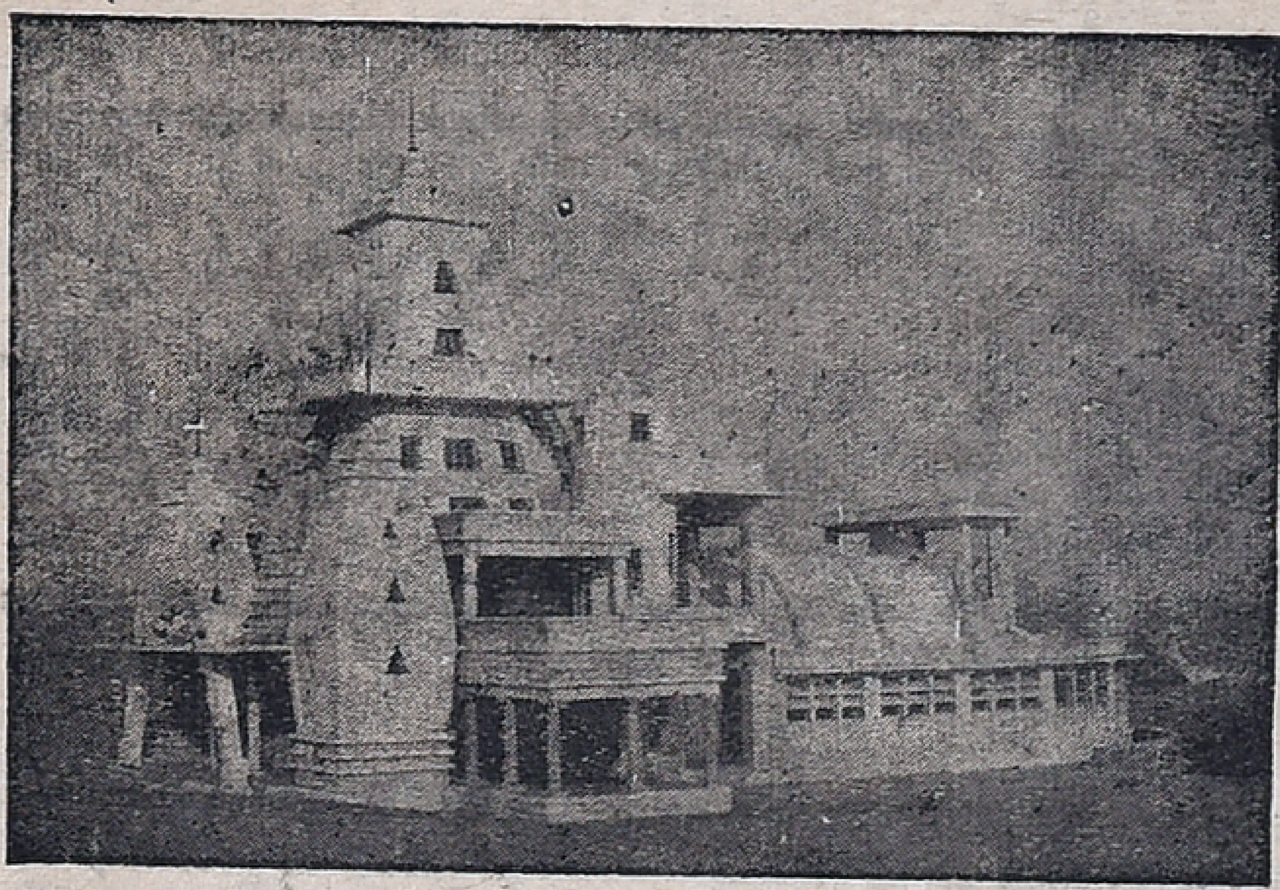
BUDDHIST CENTRES

The facilities to be developed should not only harmonise with the environment, but also contribute materially to the development of the entire region. The Archaeological Survey of India, which is responsible for the preservation of monuments at these centres, and the State Governments concerned will be associated with the proposed development at these centres. The facilities to be provided would include accommodation, water and electric supply, camping sites, restaurants and transport facilities.

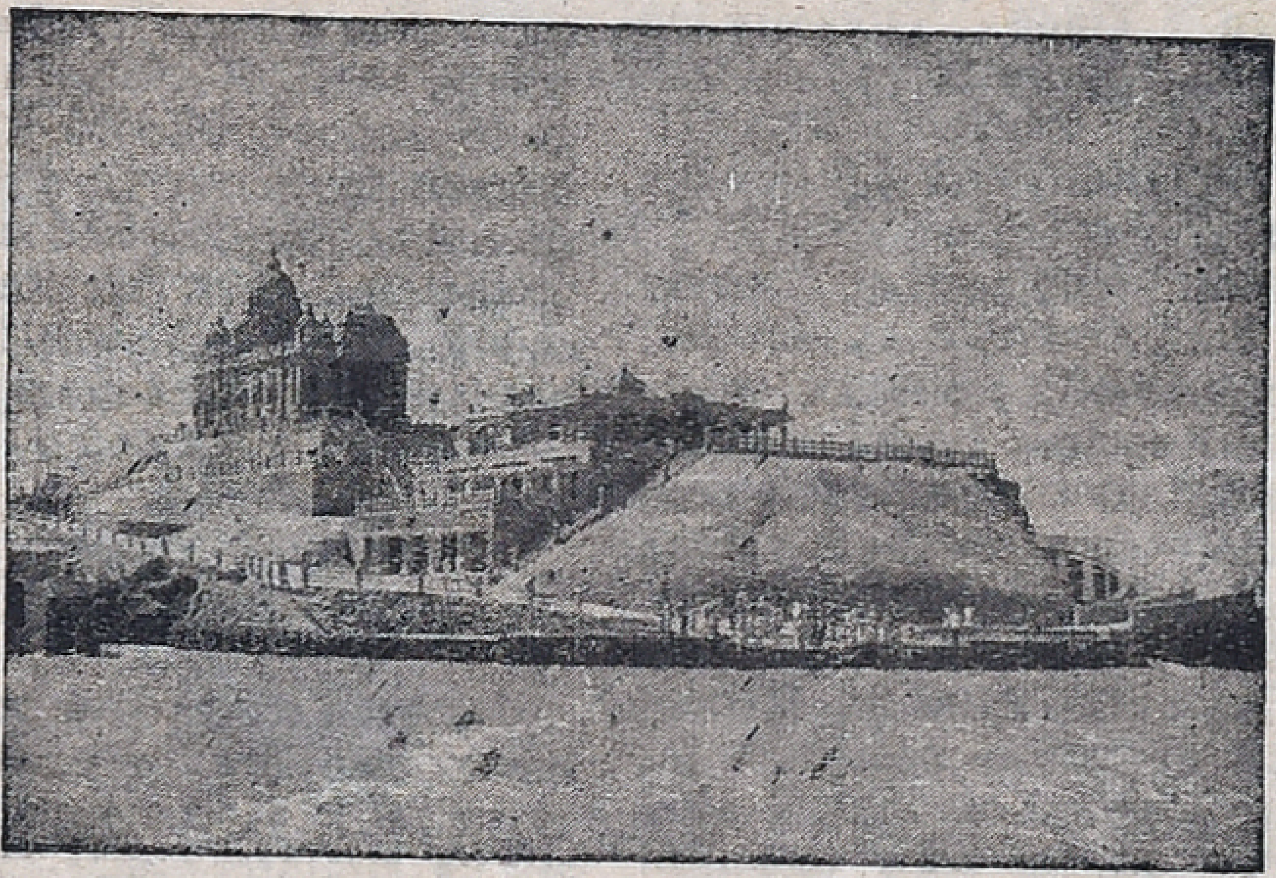
Since most of these Buddhist centres fall on the route taken by overland tourists from U.K. and Europe to Nepal, they would avail themselves of the facilities provided at these centres. This would also ensure year-round utilisation of the facilities, during the winter by Buddhist pilgrims and during the summer by road travellers from U.K. and Europe. We are also opening two new offices at Bangkok (Thailand) and Osaka (Japan) to attract more Buddhist traffic to India.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

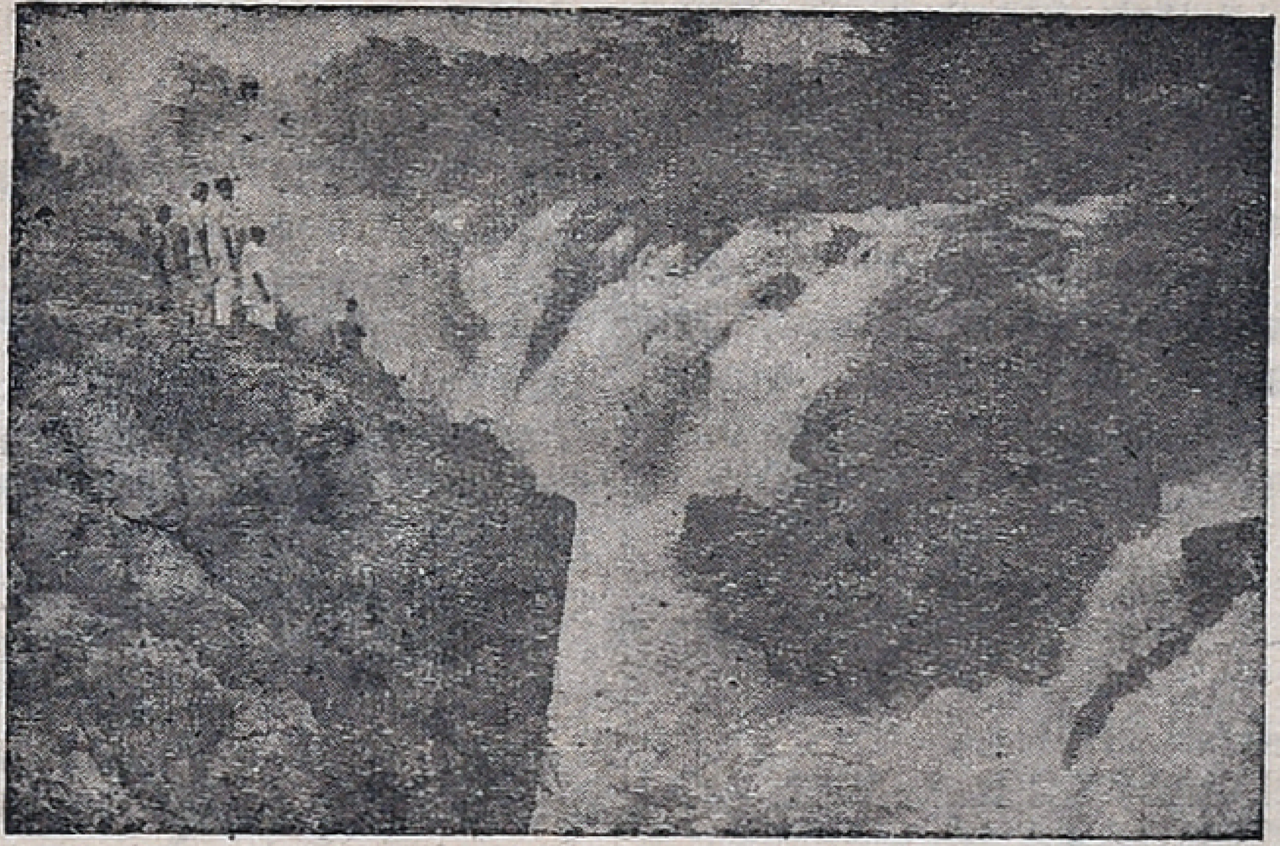
Another point which I would like to stress is that while developing facilities for international tourists, our effort should be to project our cultural heritage and values and our way of life which I believe, are in themselves a tourist attraction and draw a large number of visitors to our country. Similarly, it is necessary to have proper environmental planning for the preservation of natural balance and environment.



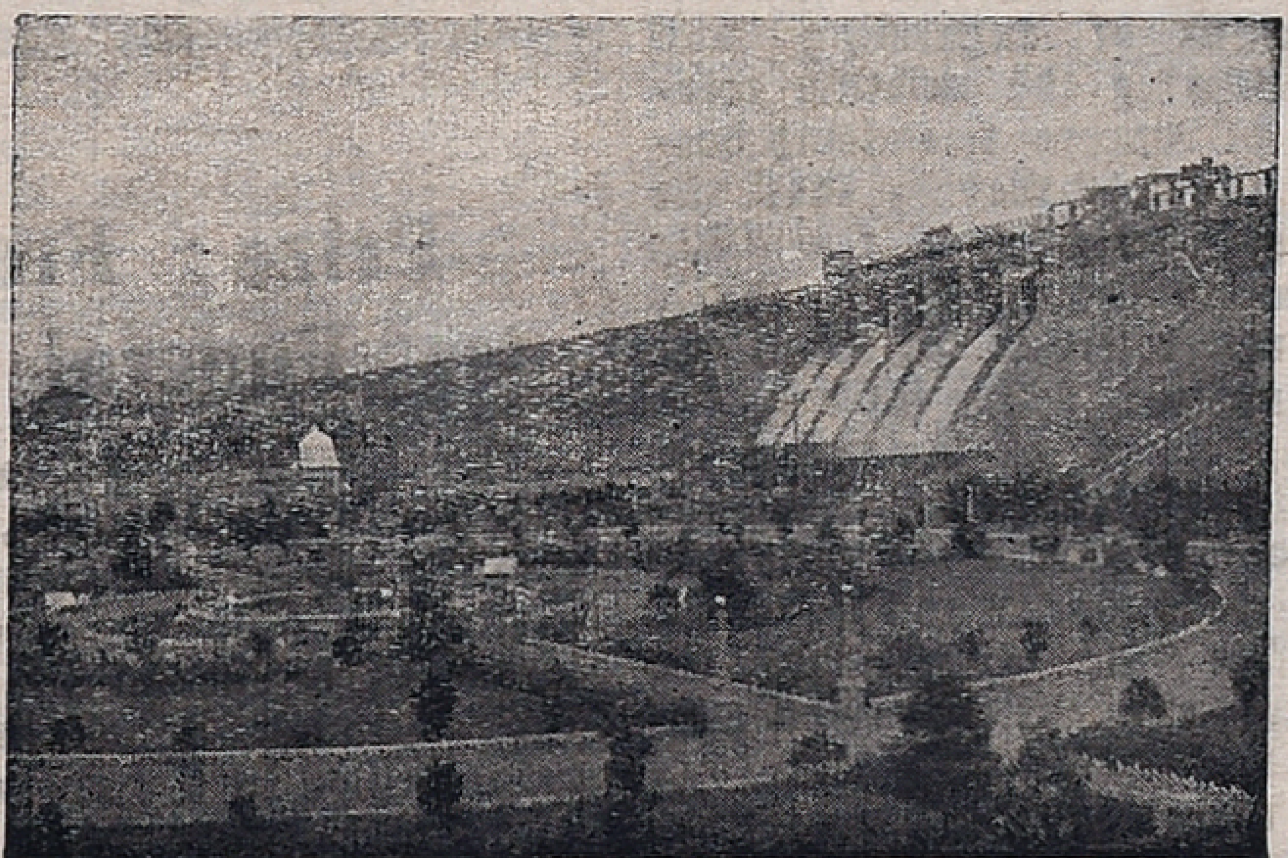
Gandhi Mantap, Kanyakumari



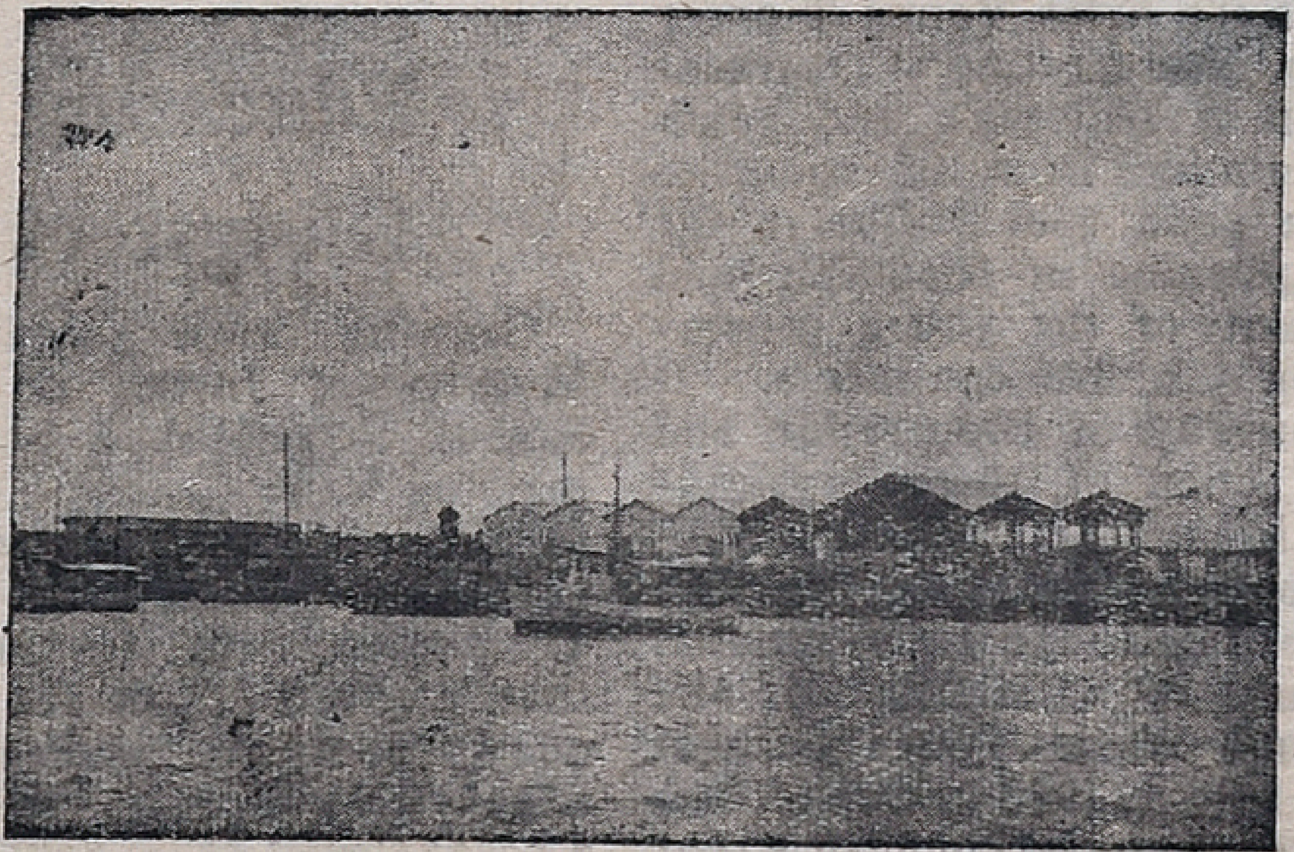
Vivekananda Rock Memorial



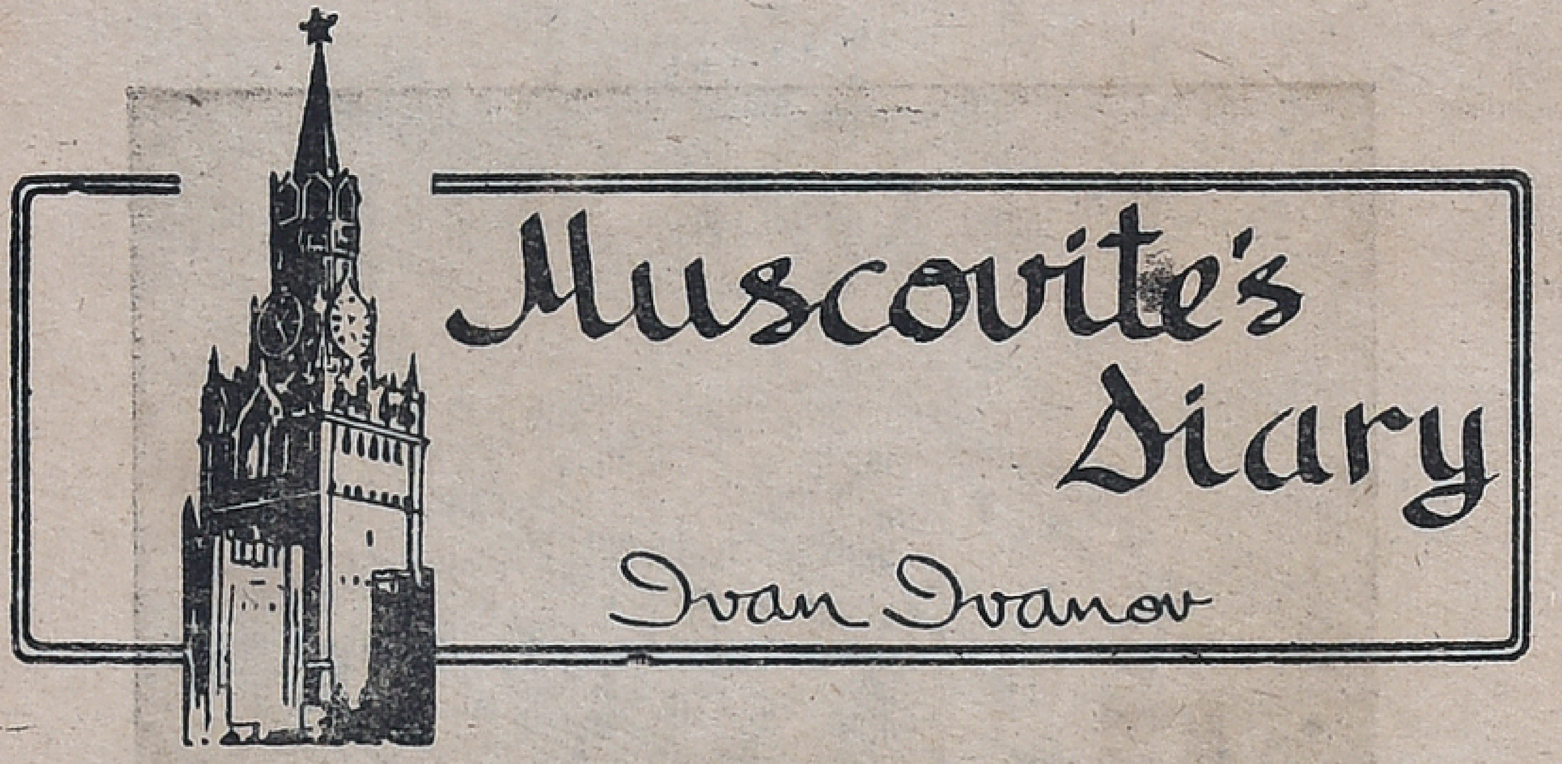
Hoganekal Falls



Vaigai Dam, Madurai



Mandapam Camp



GROWING SOVIET-INDIAN COOPERATION

THE USSR is actively participating in the setting up and development of heavy industry in India. This has been stated in an article by Mr. Nikolai Rodionev, Chairman of the Soviet Foreign Trade Organisation "Prommachexport" and published in the magazine VNESHNAYA TORGOVLYA ("Foreign Trade").

Several engineering works were built on Soviet designs. The biggest of them is an enterprise in Ranchi. Its annual output is 80,000 tons of equipment for blast furnaces and rolling mills, Nikolai Rodionev writes. He has pointed out that the building of the Plant in Ranchi opened by broad prospects for the development of India's steel industry on its own technical basis.

Another big enterprise was built in Durgapur which has near a coal basin a plant for ore and coal mining equipment with an annual capacity of 45,000 tons. Hoisting machinery, diesel locomotive driven ore-carriers, conveyors, ventilators, and pit pumps are already manufactured there.

The Heavy Electrical Equipment plant in Hardwar, also built with Soviet assistance, has become one of the biggest enterprises in South-East Asia, Rodionov says.

x x x

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL CONCLUDES

The international children's festival, "Let there Always Be Sunshine", held in the Soviet Union has ended at a ceremony. The festival that lasted a fortnight was held in Moscow and then in the Artek Young Pioneer Camp. The meeting of representatives of children's and youth organisations from 103 countries was a good contribution to the strengthening of friendship and solidarity of the young generation of the five continents. It set out ways of cooperation and joint action of these organisations in the struggle for peace.

The conference sent a message of greetings to the International Preparatory Committee of the Eleventh World Youth Festival to be held in 1978 in Cuba. The message expresses confidence that the festival will make an important contribution to the strengthening of anti-imperialist solidarity of the youth in the struggle for peace and security of peoples, for national and social liberation, for the rights of the young generation.

The participants in the festival unanimously adopted a call to all people of goodwill: "Do everything to ensure that bombs and shells shoud'd never explode anywhere, that all children should go to school, should know no hunger or poverty, that they should not be deprived of their motherland, their relatives, their childhood, that the world should become better and more just".

x x x

A STEAK IN SPACE

I've been seeing how meals for space men are prepared. The "kitchen" has many of the mixers, strainers, juice-squeezers and other impedimentia that you'll find in any good housewife's kitchen, but those who work there have to be not only cooks but also doctors and microbiologists.

It takes specialists to prepare a good space meal. The procedure is to find out the cosmonauts' favourite meal, and then calculate "analogues" which more or less reproduce the taste, texture and calorific value of it.

A sample is prepared, taking care to keep it absolutely sterile. If approved, it is sent to a special factory, which produces it in batches. It must, of course, be compact and well-packed.

A spaceman eats in conditions of weightlessness, and the first space meals were all pastes in hermetically sealed tubes. That was convenient, but the spacemen complained that they had nothing to chew.

So now meals are prepared as separate little pieces which you squeeze out of a tube.

—

Educating Gangsters

Growing crime has led the Ministry of Justice of Lower Saxony to publish a book explaining the article of the criminal code and containing a glossary of underworld jargon. The reader learns, for instance, that "advertise" means betray one's accomplice, "abdication" is a gangster's funeral. "roofer" is a psyohologist or a psychiatrist, "prayer book" is a card game, and "heavenly comedian" is a prison priest.

Sixth Anniversary of Indo-Soviet Treaty

In Pursuit of Peace And Friendship

CEEARKE

Historically the word treaty has assumed a different connotation. It is associated with some sort of military pact or arrangement between any two States or a group of States. From the early days treaty has meant a one-sided agreement foisted by the victor over the vanquished or a more powerful state over the weaker ones for purposes of subjugation and exploitation. Yet, there have been exceptions also where treaties have been made on equal footing. However, they are very rare.

Unequal treaties are most unjust: Here might becomes right. The senior partners will never renounce them as it is to their advantage. However, it was the first socialist state which put an end to conclusion of such unequal treaties. One of the first acts of the revolutionary government soon after the victory of the Great October Revolution was to annul all unequal treaties signed by the Tsarist regime of Russia. The new Soviet Government also gave up some of the imperial privileges which Tsarist regime was enjoying in some neighbouring States. For the first time in history, a State took initiative in annulling all the unequal treaties. The philosophy behind such an act is more laudable, because the first socialist state was wedded to peace and friendship with all as equals. That was the position then and is so today also.

The Treaty that has been there between India and the Soviet Union for the last six years is a model for relations between two equals. This Treaty which has stood the test of the time was one of the first of its kind to be signed by a big power with a developing country. It is also a treaty between the countries with differing social and political systems.

The principal aim of the treaty is the pursuit of peace and friendship. The preamble of the treaty makes this position clear. "Desirous of expanding and consolidating the existing relations of sincere friendship between them, believing that the further develoment of friendship and cooperation meets the basic national interests of both the States as well as the interests of lasting peace in Asia and the world, determined to promote the consolidation of universal peace and security and to make steadfast the efforts for the relaxation of international tensions and the final elimination of the remnants of colonialism, upholding their firm faith in the principles of peaceful coexistence and cooperation between States with different political and social systems. Convinced that in the world today international problems can only be solved by cooperation and not by conflict, reaffirming their determination to abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, India and the USSR have decided to conclude this treaty". This in a nutshell is the essence of the treaty.

The treaty itself is the product of long history of relations between the USSR and India in political, economic, scientific and cultural spheres. It only enshrines the logical development of these relations in a legal document. The satisfactory manner in which this treaty has worked testifies for that.

The treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1971 opened a new stage in Soviet-Indian relations. It provided a long-term foundation for Soviet-Indian relations and outlined extensive prospects for their further development. At the same time, the Treaty is conducive to normalisation of the situation in Asia. Events in the past years have proved this beyond doubt.

The experience of Soviet-Indian relations shows convincingly how closely friendly relations may unite States with different social systems when their policy is inspired by the ideals of peace and prosperity of peoples.

—

Coals To Newcastle?

San Francisco entrepreneur Bill Graham decided to arrange tours in Cuba for two of the United States' top Latin bands, Santana and Eddic Palmieri. He himself was not in the least disconcerted by the fact that the Cubans are past masters where musical rhythm is concerned. The "*Newsweek*" magazine, however, dubbed the idea a "coals-to-Newcastle" gambit.

—

Prize: Free Funeral

The broadcasting station at Wheeling (West Virginia, U.S.A.) recently sponsored a competition, inviting people to enter their names in a special list and if their number come out, they would killed in a road accident on Memorial Day, May 30. To the suprise of the station operators, no one took advantage of their tempting offer.

To Mark India's Independence Day :

Thirty Years Of Friendship And Cooperation

By L. MIRONOV

The Soviet Union was one of the first countries to recognise India's independence. During the sixty years of its existence the motherland of the Great October Revolution has largely contributed to the downfall of the colonial system of imperialism and the emergence of scores of independent states in Asia and Africa.

Over the three decades of its independence India has made essential progress in economic development, has laid the foundations of up-to-date industry, has built major irrigation systems and electric power stations, and has succeeded in obtaining higher yields in agriculture. The Indian people can be rightfully proud of the fact that their country is now ranking among the ten nations which lead the world in industrial output. In the past three decades India has developed from a raw material appendage of the parent state into a mighty agrarian and industrial power.

IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT

The establishment and further consolidation of the public sector has been one of the important economic achievements of Independent India. The public sector predominates in the manufacture of about 50 types of products which are vitally important for the country. According to a recent statement of Finance Minister H. M. Patel, made in the Rajya Sabha of the Indian Parliament, he public sector will continue playing its major part in the Indian economy.

Throughout the entire period of independence India has been substantially contributing to the shaping up and further development of international relations.

The community of aims of the USSR and India in he struggle for world peace and the security of nations, against imperialism, colonialism, oppression and imperialist exploitation, has been a solid basis for the successful development of versatile Soviet-Indian contacts and for the fruitful political and economic co-operation of both states.

TRADE RELATIONS

Today about 90 major industrial projects are either functioning, under construction, or being designed in India with Soviet assistance. At present the Indian enterprises built with Soviet economic and technical aid smelt almost one third of all steel, manufacture 80 per cent of metallurgical equipment, 60 per cent of heavy electrical equipment, extract more than half of all oil, refine one-third of oil, and prepare 50 per cent of main medicines.

One cannot bypass such an important aspect of relations as trade. The USSR is India's leading partner in its export and holds one of the leading places in its import. In accordance with the 1976–1980 agreement, trade between the two countries will increase by almost two-fold in comparison with the previous five-year period.

An important place in the chronicle of Soviet-Indian relations belongs to the Treaty of Peace Friendship and Co-operation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of India, signed on August 9. 1971. This document ushered in a new stage in the further development, in strength and scope, of traditional contacts of friendship between the two countries. It was an expression of the growing trust between the USSR and India and of their mutual interest in the expansion of co-operation on the international scene.

COMMITMENTS CONTINUE

After the victory gained by Janata Party at the Parliamentary elections in March, the new Government stated that it will continue the policy of non-alignment and will respect the Treaty commitments undertaken by its predecessors.

That Soviet-Indian relations are based on fundamental interests of the two great nations, not on time-serving considerations, was corroborated during the visit of A. A. Gromoko, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, paid to India recently. The documents, signed as a result of the visit, have emphasised the resolution of the two states to go on with the policy of further strengthening equitable and reciprocally-advantageous co-operation on the basis of Soviet-Indian Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation.

L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee stressed at the twenty-fifth Party Congress that "Close political and economic co-operation with the Republic of India is our constant policy". The Soviet Union is firmly adhering to this policy.

Indo-Soviet Cooperation In The Field Of Education

By VIRENDRA TRIPATHI

INDJA has made tremendous progress in the field of education during the last three decades of its independence. From a mere 8 per cent, literacy rose to about 30 per cent during these years. There were only 20 universities in 1948. Now there are about 100 universities in India. In the field of technical education the nation has made considerable progress and a vast number of technical institutions have been built so that today India ranks third in the world in the number of specialists being trained.

The Soviet Union made a modest contribution to the progress of education in this country under the various cultural agreements. The first inter government agreement on cultural, scientific and technical cooperation between India and USSR was signed on February 12, 1960. Now this cooperation embraces such important areas of education as the training of specialists and scientists, direct links between higher educational establishments, exchange of highly qualified lecturers, joint research, assistance in setting up higher and high secondary technical Institutes. Soviet scientists and specialists work in India and their Indian colleagues in the Soviet Union. Thousands of Indian engineers and technicians have undergone training at Soviet plants and factories, and hundreds of young Indian specialists have received diplomas from Soviet institutions.

The Important step in Soviet assistance to India in the field of education was the USSR's participation in 1958 to set up a polytechnical institute in Bombay under UNESCO programme. The Soviet Union provided the equipments, helped to work out study plans and programmes and provide teachers and other facilities. The Institute in Powai (Bombay) provides courses for for 2 200 students and post-graduates in 10 different fields. It was named a national Institute by an Act of Parliament.

During the following years, the Soviet Union provided further assistance for the development of scientific education. A number of institutions throughout India receive Soviet assistance today. Soviet specialists have helped their Indian colleagues to set up autonomous departments of geophysics at the Osmania, of metallurgy at IIT in Kharagpur, of aeronautics at the Bombay IIT and automobiles and computing techniques in Bangalore. The Soviet Union is helping to establish five specialised technical schools : machine-building in Ranchi, power engineering in Bhopal, metallurgical in Bhilai, radio electronics in Hyderabad and oil chemistry in Baroda. The Institute of Russian studies (now Centre of Russian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University), New Delhi, was set up with Soviet assistance in 1965. Soviet teachers take active part in its work.

Indo-Soviet collaboration in the sphere of higher and specialised secondary education is making good headway. The Soviet Union appreciates the contribution of Indian scientists to world science. Eminent Indian scientists have been honoured by the USSR Academy of Sciences.

In the past two decades over 3,000 specialists and workers of India have got practical training in the Soviet Union. In 1976, 147 Indians went to the USSR to study in its academic institutions. This year the Soviet Union has granted 247 stipends to Indian students for study in USSR. More than 500 Indian students are studying in the USSR at present.

Soviet educationalists and scientists work in 30 training and research centres of India including 18 educational institutions set up under UNESCO. Fifteen Soviet training institutes have established direct contacts with universities in India practising large-scale exchanges of text-books, pedagogic literature and research works.

In September last year India and the Soviet Union signed in New Delhi a programme for cultural and scientific exchanges between the two countries for 1976–978, Twenty-eight of its 116 items (i. e. approximately one-fourth) are concerned with higher education. The scope is higher than that of previous programmes. Thus, cooperation between the higher institutes of India and the USSR is expanding and strengthening.

For The Week 14th August To 20th August 1977

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

FAVOURABLE period continues. You should continue your efforts, but you should not expect quick results. You will be able to reap the benefits after September. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Avoid friction with associates. Family responsibilities will increase. Matters relating to children require attention. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days : 15th & 16th.

★

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. However you can expect better results by the end of this week for your efforts. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. There is no major change in the office. But avoid arguments with superiors. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments. Favourable days : 16th & 17th.

★

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

FAVOURABLE period to settle financial problems. You will be able to clear long pending debts this week. You should try to make permanent arrangement to get additional income. Speculative gains are also indicated. Some major changes are indicated in office. Promotional possibilities are bright. You can expect encouragement from superiors. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days : 18th & 19th.

★

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

MIXED results are indicated You cannot expect complete relief from the pressure of work and responsibility for another couple of weeks. However, you will be able solve some of the problems by the end of this week. Avoid taking up additional responsibilities for some more time. Also avoid long distance travel. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children require attention Favourable days : 17th & 18th.

★

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

FAVOURABLE period. You will be able to solve your financial problems to some extent. But you should wait for some more time to get complete relief from the difficulties. There are no major changes in the office. However you should be prepared for additional responsibilities from the middle of this week. Avoid friction with associates. Also avoid long distance travel. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably Favourable days : 15th & 16th.

★

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

FAVOURABLE period to implement your plans. You can expect cooperation and encouragement from your seniors. You will be able to start new venturer. Promotional possibilities are bright You should be prepared for additional responsibility in the office. Change of place is indicated for some. Avoid friction with family members. Matters relating to children require attention. Financial position will not be up to expectation. Avoid speculative investments. Favourable days : 18th & 19th.

★

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement you plans. There is no major change in the office. Domestic responsibilities will increase. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid legal complications. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Health will be well maintained. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Favourable days : 17th & 18th.

★

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

FAVOURABLE period to implement your plans. You will be able to solve some of the long pending problems. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. You will be able start new ventures. You should try to make a permanent arrangement for additional income. Partnership matters require attention. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Change of place is indicated for some. Favourable days : 19th & 20th.

★

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

MIXED results are indicated You cannot expect complete relief from the pressure of work and responsibility for some more time. There is no major change in the office. But avoid friction with associates. And also avoid impulsive actions. Matters relating to children require attention. Family members will be cooperative. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications later. Favourable days : 18th & 19th.

★

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana-Dhanistha 1/2

FAVOURABLE period. You will be able to diversify your activities and also increase your income. Partnership arrangements could be finalised. Health will be well maintained. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. You should try to revive your old business contacts. Favourable days : 17th & 18th.

GLOSSARY

Arudra	—திருவாதிரை
Pushya	—பூசம்
Ashlesha	—ஆயில்யம்
Purva Phalguni	—பூரம்
Uttara Phalguni	—உத்திரம்
Anuradha	—அனுஷம்
Jyeshtha	—கேட்டை
Purva Ashada	—பூராடம்
Uttara Ashada	—உத்திராடம்
Shravana	—திருவோணம்
Dhanistha	—அவிட்டம்
Satha Bhishag	—சதயம்
Purva Bhadrapada	—பூரட்டாதி
Uttara Bhadrapada	—உத்திரட்டாதி

★

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanistha 1/2 Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

FAVOURABLE period to implement you plans. Some favourable changes are indicated in the office. You will be offered a more attractive position. Property matters could be finalised. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children require attention. Change of place is indicated for some. You may also think of going on a pilgrimage with your family. Favourable days : 15th & 16th.

★

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

MIXED results are indicated. You will be able to solve financial problems this week. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. There is no major change in the office. You can expect encouragement from your superiors. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children require attention. Health will be well maintained. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Favourable days : 10th & 15th.

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From page 2

The Concept Of Lok Pal

writing letters to his M.P. or to Ministers are not of much help, that the available judicial remedy is neither adequate nor efficacious in many cases because courts are hide-bound by limitations of procedure and technicalities. Besides, very few can afford the high cost of litigation from court to court.

THE RESPONSE

What has been the Indian reponse? Way back in August 1966, the Adminstrative Reforms Commission in their Report suggested the adoption of the Ombudsman type institution in India.

A Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on May 9, 1968 to implement the recommendations of the Commission. It was passed by the Lok Sabha, but while it was pending in the Rajya Sabha, the Lok Sabha was dissolved and the Bill consequently lapsed.

A new Bill on similar lines was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August, 1971. This also lapsed on dissolution of the Fifth Lok Sabha.

Orissa, Maharashtra and Rajasthan are some of the States which have enacted laws on the same lines as the Central Lok Pal Bill.

The Central Bill provided for the appointment of a Lok Pal by the President after consulatation with the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People. This is a salutary provision meant to ensure the confidence of Parliament in the Lok Pal. The term of office provided was 5 years. The Lok Pal could only be removed by the President on the ground of mis behaviour or incapacity and on no other ground, and the procedure for his removal was the same as that prescribed in the Constitution for the removal of a Supreme Court or a High Court Judge. Under the Central Bill, the Lok Pal had authority to investigate any action taken by the Minister or a Secretary or any other public servant. The main work of the Lok Pal, as envisaged in the Bill, was investigatory and not adjudicatory. If after investigation the Lok Pal is satisfied that the complaint of corruption or mal-administration is justified, he is empowered to make a report recommending to the public servant and the competent authority concerned that such wrong shall be remedied within a certain time. If the Lok Pal is not satisfied that appropriate action has been taken on his recommendation, he can make a special report to the President. Furthermore, under the Bill, he has to present annually a consolidated report to the President and the President is required to lay both these reports before each House of Parliament. These two bills, though not perfect, were steps in the right direction. I would suggest that in a future law on the subject the restrictions placed regarding the areas into which the Lok Pal cannot inquire should be reduced and in fact effort should be made to make his teeth a lot sharper. Besides serious thought must be given to include the Prime Minister also as one of the person into whose conduct the Lokpal can enquire. Let us not forget that it is of public importance that the public men failing in their duty must be exposed and then face consequences either in Parliament or in a court of law.

OBJECTIONS

One of the strong objections urged against the establishment of a Lok Pal is that it would conflict with ministerial responsibility. This objection is ill-founded. In the first place, there is no principle which requires that the Minister must have exclusive responsibility for investigating the lapses of his Department. Administrative justice demands some regular, efficient and non-political system of investigating individual complaints against the powers that be. This is exactly what ministerial responsibility does not provide. Lok Pal and Lok Ayukatas would certainly be thorns in the sides of the powers that be. But that surely cannot impair the principle of ministerial responsibility. It would rather ensure accountability.

Furthermore, experience has shown that Not all Members of Parliament are effective grievace men. The growth of party discipline and the prominence of partisan attitudes in defending the performance of Governments tend to create an unfavourable atmosphere for the calm ; consideration of individual complaints and of the best ways for dealing with them.

Commissions are often appointed under the Commission of Inquires Act to inquire into actions of various Ministers, for example, the Das Commission inquired into the affairs of the Kairon Ministry in Punjab. No one suggested that this was a violation of ministerial responsibility.

The other objection that Lok Pal would encroach upon judicial functions of the courts is also untenable. The essential features of Lok Pal are to investigate, criticise and in some cases to publicise but not to reverse administrative actions. The purpose of Lok Pal is not to adjudicate but to provide regular machinery for investigating grievances against the administration in a discreet and informal way. In fact, it is the informality of approach which is one of the main advantages of this system. Besides, it is precisely because courts of law are unable to provide relief in several spheres that the Lok Pal steps in. Take for example the fundamental right of equality and non-discrimination guaranteed by our Constitution. The equality principle is the basis of every civilized society and in our country where pulls and prejudices on a count of caste, creed and religion operate powerfully, the need to weed out discrimination is paramount. The courts' powers, however, are limited because the guarantee of non-discrimination can be enforced only against the State which as defined by the Constitution, means Central or State governments and local authorities and bodies exercising quasi-governmental powers. Consequently, courts are unable to do anything about the prevalence of discrimination in public institutions such as universities, hospitals, nationalised Banks and several statutory corporations and bodies performing public functions and duties. This is precisely where the Lok Pal should make adequate provision for those situations so that civil liberties do not remain parchment promises but are experienced as living realities. Moreover, the Lok Pal is not the monarch of all the surveys with his right there being none to dispute. In appropriate cases, should he overstep his limits, he can be brought within the supervisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and if there is any doubt about this, a provision can be made to that effect.

PREVENTIVE ROLE

Lok Pal is not only curative, but also preventive. He does not only give relief to the aggrieved citizen, but also induces more care in the administration in taking a decision. In short he keeps the officials on their toes. Also, to the extent the Lok Pal holds a large number of complaints insubsantial, to that extent the image of the administration is improved, the faith of the public is redeemed and the administration stands vindicated. The public remains satisfied. Even if no relief can be given in a particular case, the mere fact an independent authority has reviewed the matter gives great satisfaction to the complainant. In many cases in other countries, the Ombudsman has found that the complaints arise because the complainants fail to appreciate reasons behind a particular administrative decision and if the same are explained to them they feel satisfied. The Lok Pal, therefore, has an important public relations aspect. The crisis of confidence between the administration and the public could be the nagation of good administration and the Lok Pal seeks to avoid it.

The success of the institution will depend greatly on those who are called upon to discharge the function for it is they who, more than the legislative enactment, will really carve the place this institution is to occupy in our system of government. It is of the utmost importance that the person selected should be one who is known for his sturdy independence and fair-mindedness. Accordingly, it would be eminently desirable that no active politician is appointed to this office, because, as the age-old dictum reminds us, justice must not only be done, but must manifestly seen to be done.

The two Bills introduced in Parliament did not provide for any qualification for the person to be apointed as Lok Pal. The Lok Pal will have to deal with many points of law in the course of his functioning. Though it is not necessary that the person to be appointed should have been a practising lawyer, it is necessary that he should have had some legal education-which is the requirement in Scandivanian countries and that he should be in the opinion of the President a distinguished jurist-which is the same qualification as re-

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important pest attacking tomatoes. Spraying of Malathion at 10–12 cc in five litres of water at weekly intervals can control the pest.

PEST AND DISEASES

For controlling damping off disease, seed treatment with Agrosan G. N. or drenching the soil of the nursery with Captan is recommended. Early Blight and Late Blight can be controlled by spraying Diathane Z-7B two gm mixed in one litre of water twice or thrice.

Leaf Curl is the most severe virus disease of tomatoes. It can be checked by controlling the vector (white fly). Spraying with 0.05 per cent Malathion or Folidol is effective. Tomato is also attacked by root knot nematode. Growing a resistant variety like S-120 is recommended in affected areas. Chemicals like DD and Nemagen can also control the nematode.

Fruits are ready for harvesting in 75 to 100 days after transplanting depending upon the variety. A good crop of tomato can yield 200 to 350 quintals per hectare.

SEX PROBLEMS

Rejuvenation. Is it a fact that we can Recover Lost Strength, Health, premature old age? Yes! take Treatment and be convinced. Contact 9-30 to 1, 4 to 8 P. M. (No Holiday on Sunday) Venereal and Skin Diseases also treated. Consult in privacy for all personal problems.

CURA CLINIC,
(Sex Specialist)
208/210, Berkely Building,
(upstairs),
Triplicane High Road,
Near Post Office Bus stop,
MADRAS – 600 005.

ENTERTAINMENT TAX

WHO PAYS THE PIPER?

By A CORRESPONDENT

A half-page advertisement released by the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce appeared in all leading Tamil Dailies last week in the form of a memorandum to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran.

Anyone who goes through it would get the idea that the entertainment tax is the sole cause for the present plight of the film industry in Tamil Nadu. But it is not so.

After all, neither the producer nor the distributor nor the exhibitor pays the tax out of his share. As far as the entertainment tax is concerned, it is only the exhibitor who comes into the picture. He, too, only acts as a 'collecting agent' for the government.

THE TAX IS ACTUALLY PAID BY THE CINEMA GOERS. IT IS ONLY THE CINE GOERS WHO SHOULD AGITATE FOR A REDUCTION IN THE ENTERTAINMENT TAX. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ENTERTAINMENT AND SHOW TAXES IN TAMIL NADU ARE FAR HIGHER THAN IN THE NEIGHBOURING STATES AND NEEDS A DOWNWARD REVISION. FOR, CINEMA IS THE ONLY ENTERTAINMENT AVAILABLE FOR THE POOR MAN WITHIN HIS MEANS.

The argument that the high incidence of taxation affects the collection at the theatres would not stand any test. For, almost all the re-run Tamil films and also other language (HINDI, ENGLISH ETC.) films have shown good returns even in the recent past. When entertainment tax has not affected them, one wonders, how it would affect the NEW films alone.

Tamil films released in the past one year or so have not come up to the standard of films produced in other languages. They failed to satisfy the film fans. Many of them lacked good themes. Most of the recent Tamil films had only the same old beaten track of ludicrous situations, low taste and vulgar comedy sequences, mediocre performances by artistes, poor direction and technical qualities. These are the main reasons for films flopping at the box office. THOSE FILMS WHICH HAD A GOOD STORY, MUSIC, PHOTOGRAPHY AND OTHER TECHNICAL QUALITIES DID SUCCEED.

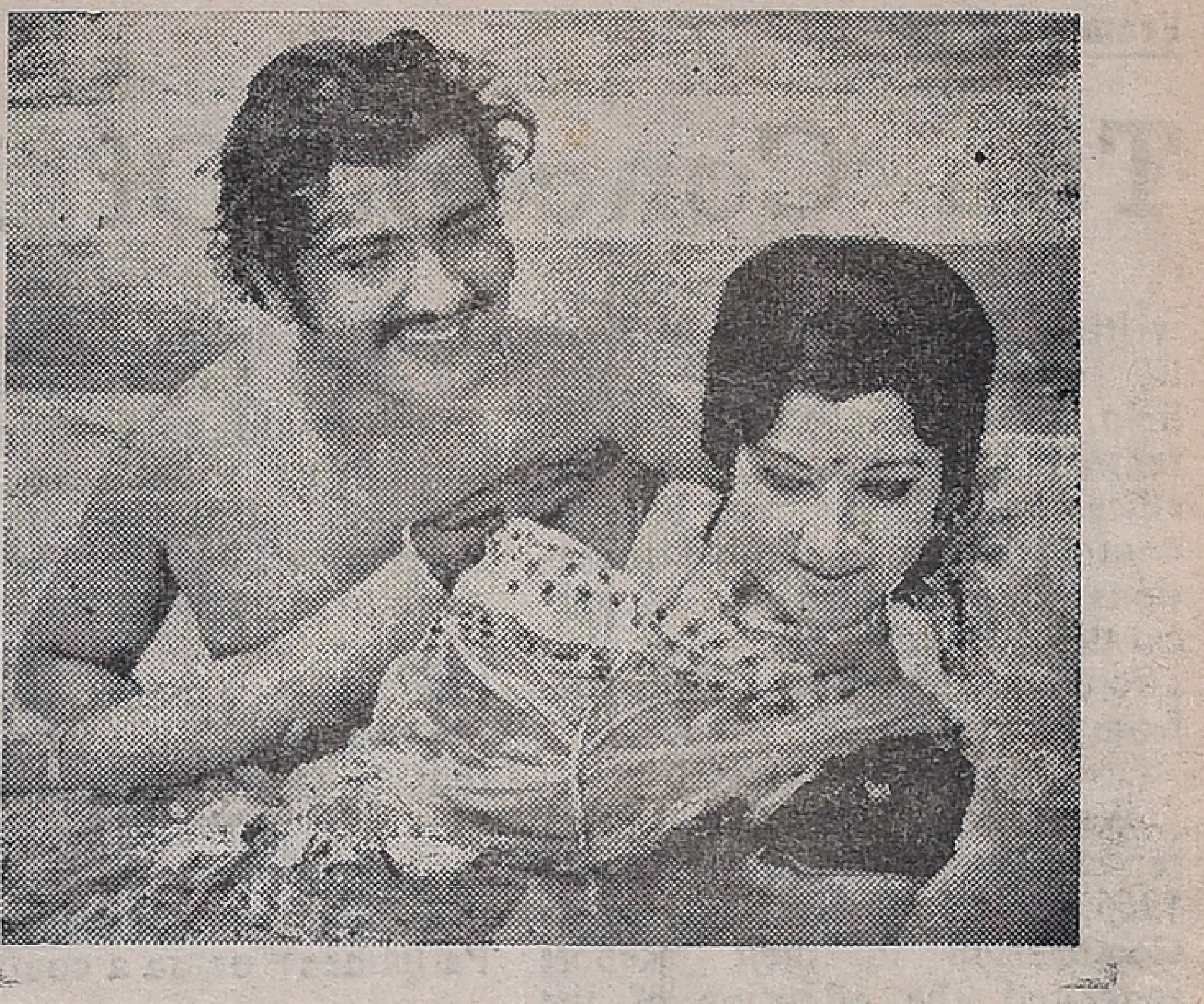
No one in the production of a Tamil film—the producer, the director, the actors and actresses, the technicians etc—seems to care about the quality of the film. They just produce a mediocre film and thrust it on the poor film goer. And when he rejects the substandard picture all connected with it raise a hue and cry.

Another reason for the present debacle of the film industry is the exhorbitant cost of production. Many of the producers, it is said, spend lots of money without pre-planning and thought unnecessarily on things unconnected with and unwanted for the production of a film. According to some, the cost of production can easily be reduced by about 25% by resorting to economies.

Many of the producers do not launch their productions with their own capital. They depend mainly on borrowed money—at a very high rate of interest. A rumour is that black money is still in circulation in the industry and that artistes are paid in 'black' and white.

If the producers and other people, who form the team in the production of a film, give due attention to quality in every aspect of film making from the selection of story to final processing, they can definitely make a film that will succeed at the box office and also win honours.

It is a pity that the Film Chamber, which is not able to get absolute cooperation from its members in strictly following many of the guidelines given by it in producing quality films at economical cost, is now forced to plead for a case where there is no real substance. It will do well to divert its energies in removing the ills caused by its own members in the industry and improve their lot.



Padmapriya and Sivakumar in a romantic sequence in Gomathi Sankar Picture's "PERUMAIKKURIYAVAL."

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quired for the appointment of a Supreme Court or a High Court Judge.

We rightly cherish Milton for his immortal sonnets and his great epics, but we tend to forget that it is also Milton who with visionary perception, uttered these words in his *Areopagiccita*:

He said: "For this is not the liberty which we can hope, that no grievance ever should arise in the Common wealth that let no man in this World expect; but when complaint are freely heard, deeply consider'd, and speedily reform'd, then is the utmost bound of civil liberty attain'd that wise men looks for".

Shri Jayaprakash Narayan in his recent broadcast to the nation said that the establishment of an autonomous body that may be known as Lok Pal was his first expectation from the Government. The citizens of India have waited long and expect the Government fulfil this expectation without any further loss of time, and thereby strengthen democracy and generate a clean political life in our country.

India has an estimated 2.5 million hectares of Alkaline soil unfit for agriculture or any other use. Uttar Pradesh has the largest chunk of it accounting for nearly 0.9 million hectares followed by Punjab (0.45) and Haryana (0.35). Nearly 64,000 hectares of such land has been reclaimed for use under a pilot project in these states. The project is implemented in those areas where sufficient water of good quality is available.

Printed and Published for the Free India Private Ltd., by G. Rangarajan at the Free India Press, 77, General Patters Road, Mount Road, Madras-600 002. Editor: D. Krishnamurthy. Telephone: 85304